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Ahlberg et al.

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(54) **METHODS AND DEVICES FOR REPAIRING AND/OR PREVENTING PARAVALVULAR LEAKAGE POST-IMPLANTATION OF A VALVE PROSTHESIS**

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(58) **Field of Classification Search**

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CPC *A61F 2/243*; *A61F 2/24*
USPC *623/2.11-2.19*
See application file for complete search history.

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A61M 31/00 (2006.01)
A61M 25/10 (2013.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

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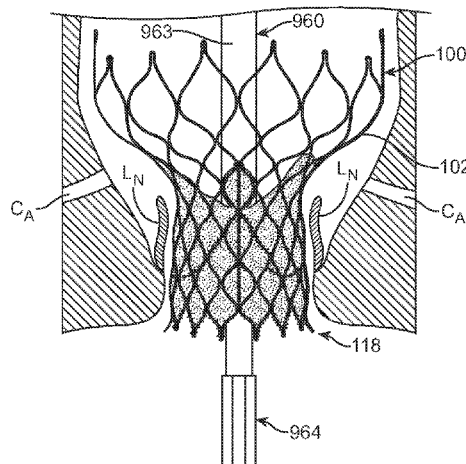
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(57)

ABSTRACT

Devices and methods for delivering a sealing element post-implantation of valve prosthesis that functions to occlude or fill gaps present between the valve prosthesis and the native valve tissue, thereby reducing, minimizing, or eliminating leaks there through. In a first method, an injectable material is placed within a native valve sinus to form a sealing element that presses native valve leaflets against an outer surface of a heart valve prosthesis. In a second method, an injectable sealing material or a preformed annular sealing component is positioned between the outer surface or perimeter of a heart valve prosthesis and native heart valve tissue. In a third method, a preformed sealing element or component is placed within a heart valve prosthesis to press the prosthesis against native valve tissue.

20 Claims, 17 Drawing Sheets



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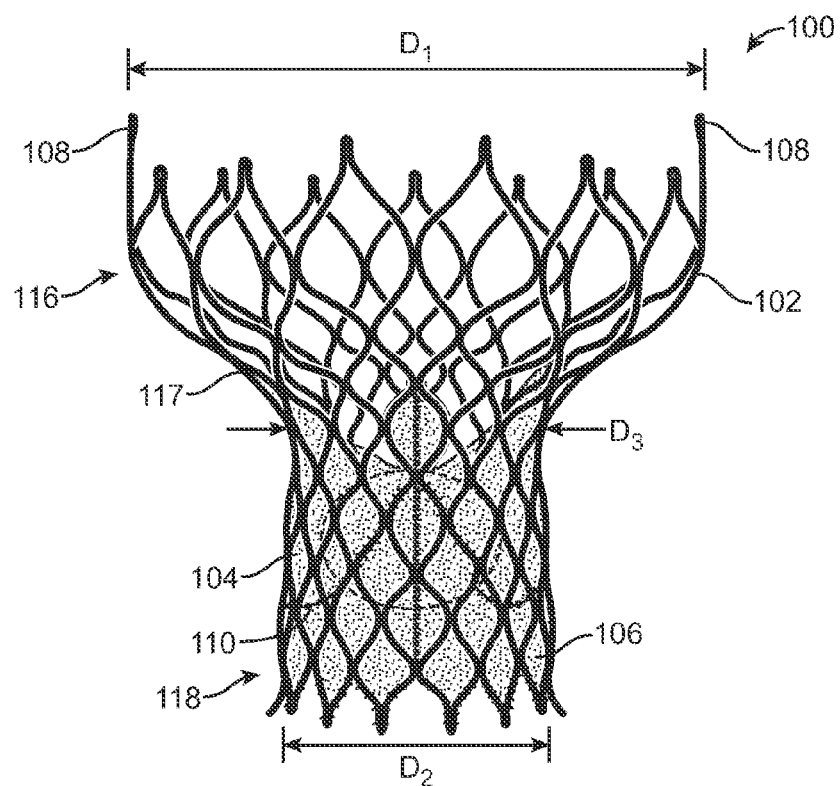


FIG. 1
(PRIOR ART)

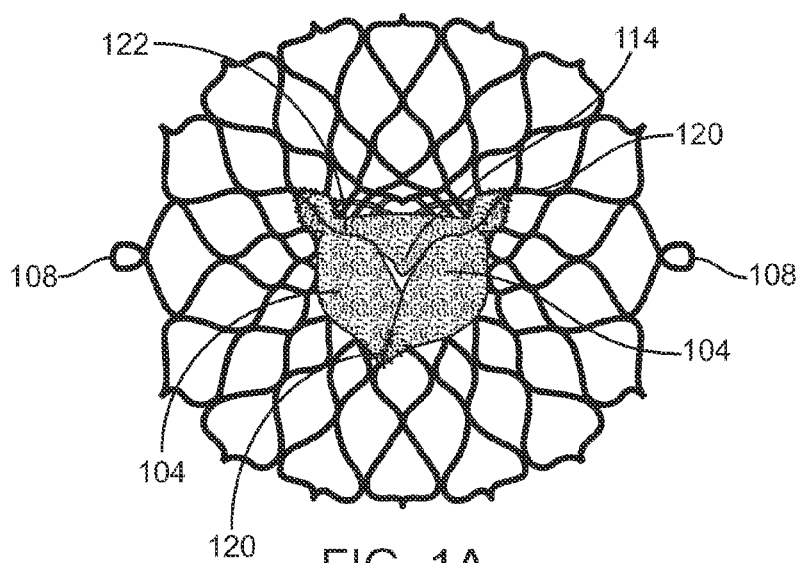


FIG. 1A
(PRIOR ART)

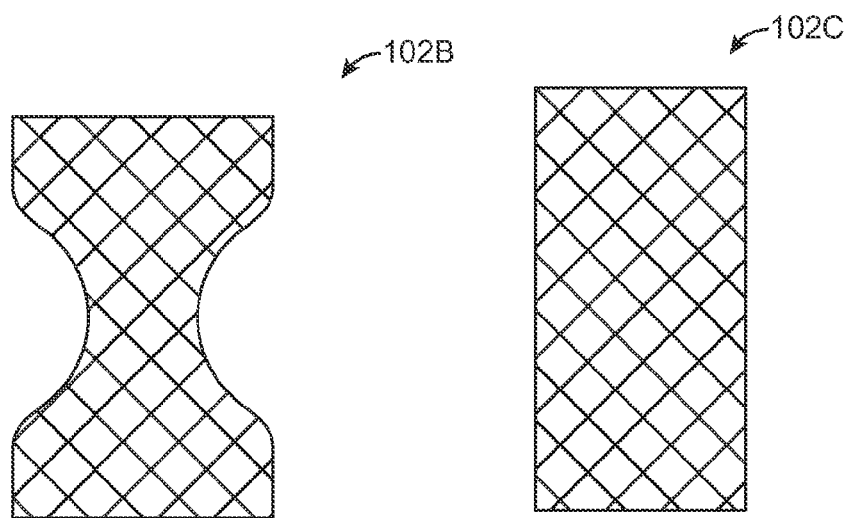


FIG. 1B

FIG. 1C

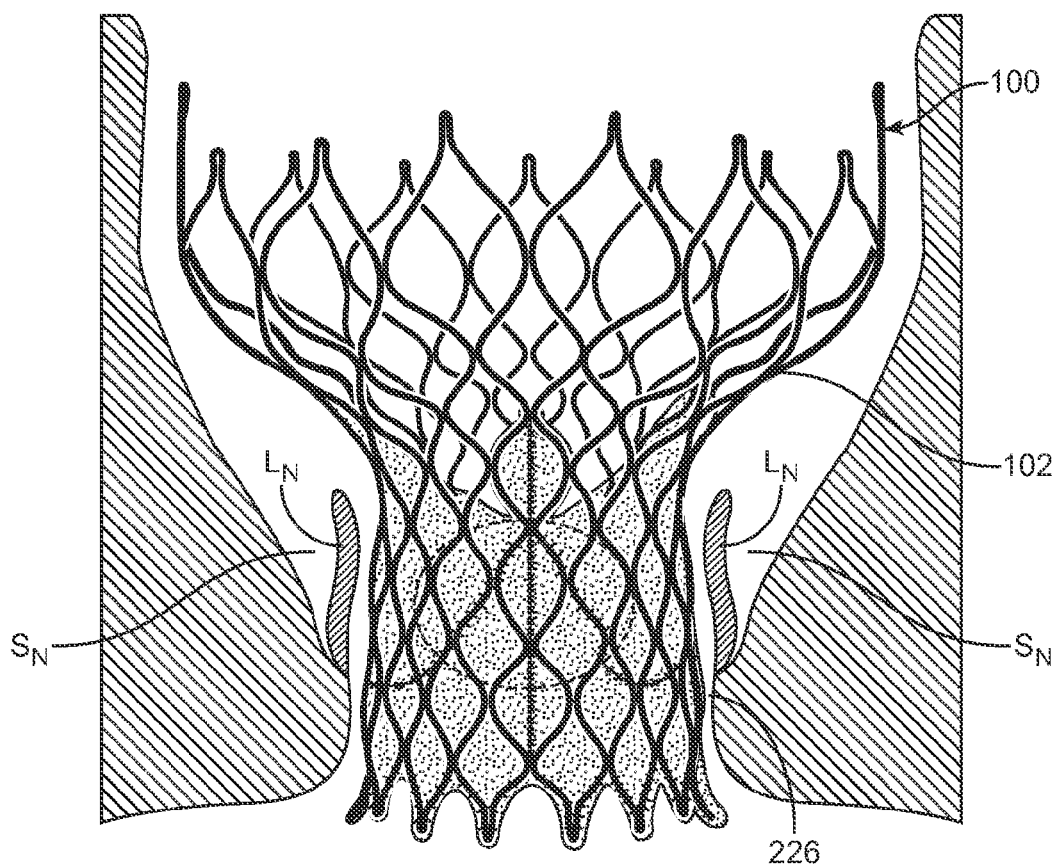


FIG. 2

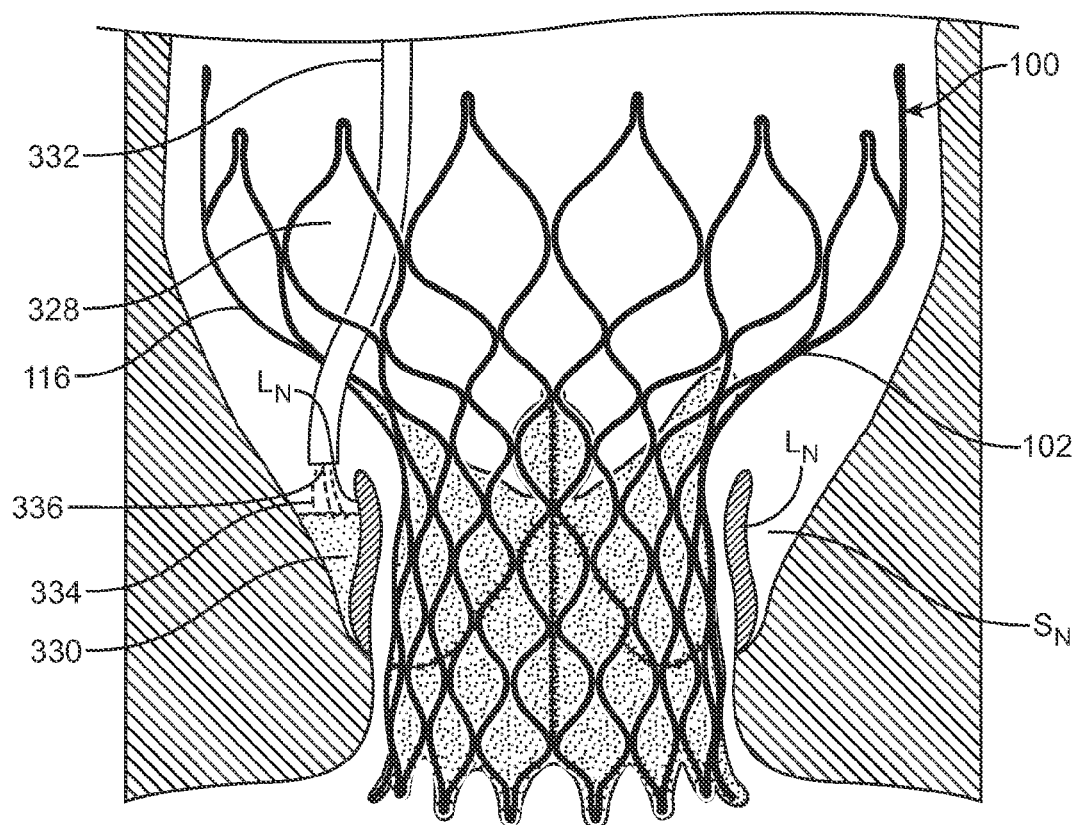


FIG. 3

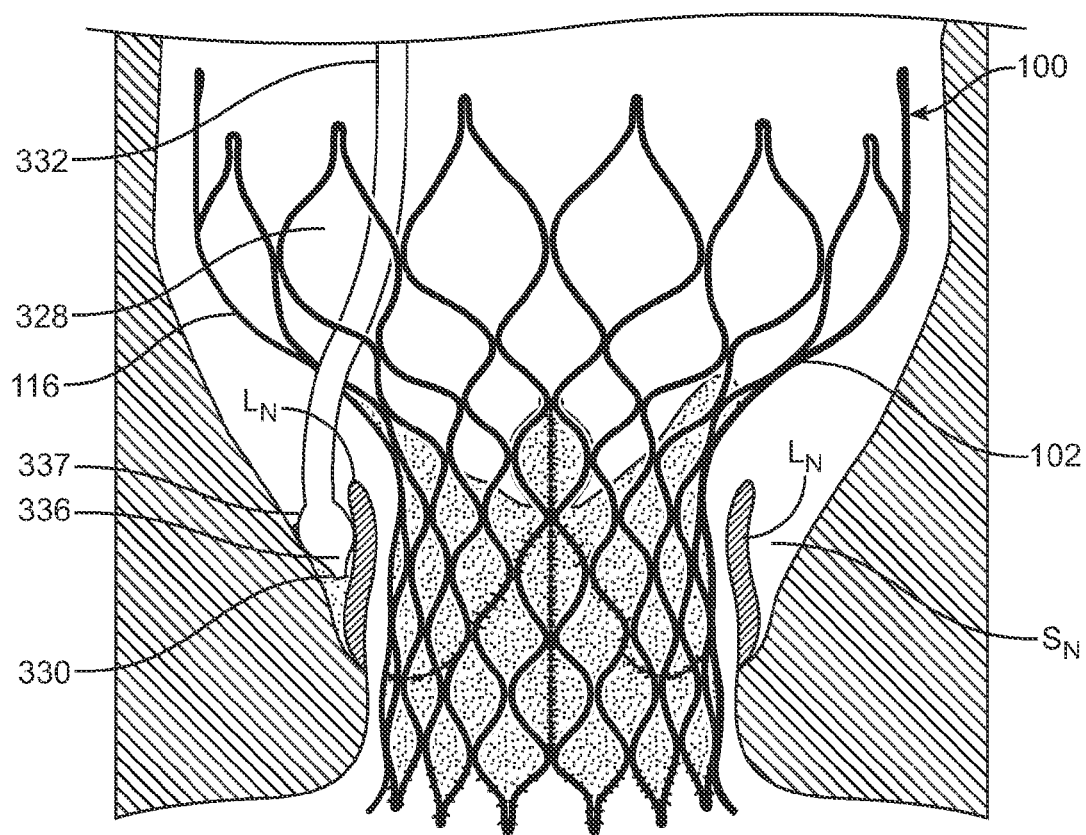


FIG. 3A

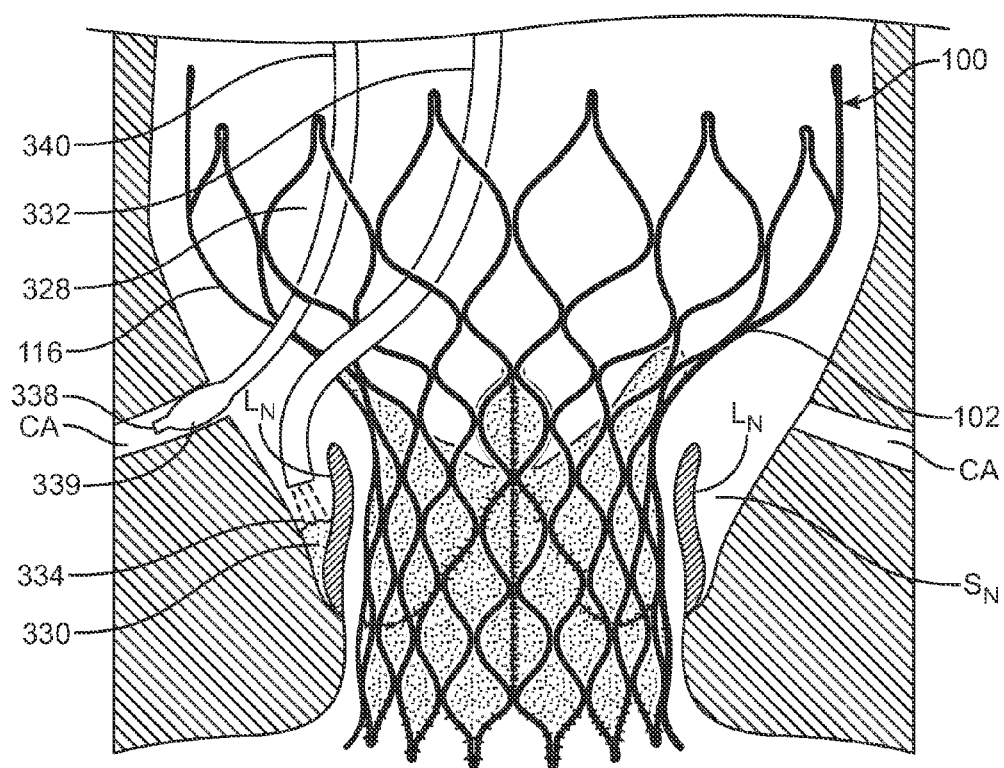


FIG. 4

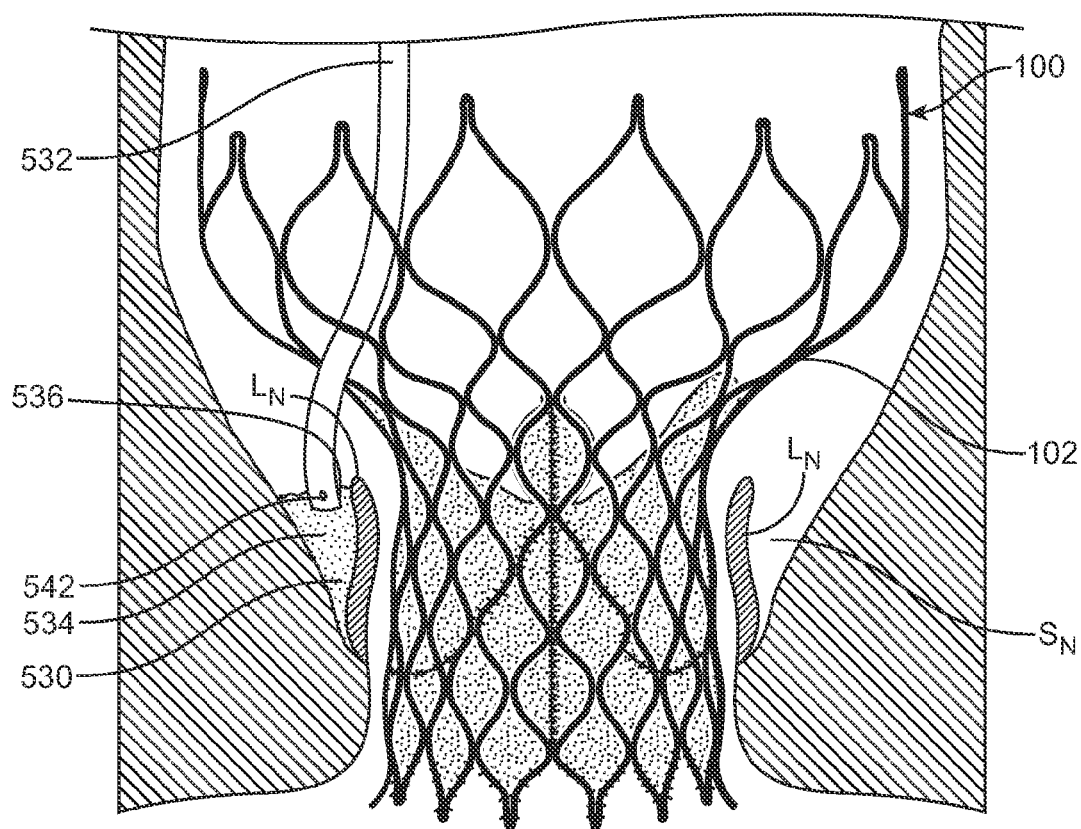


FIG. 5

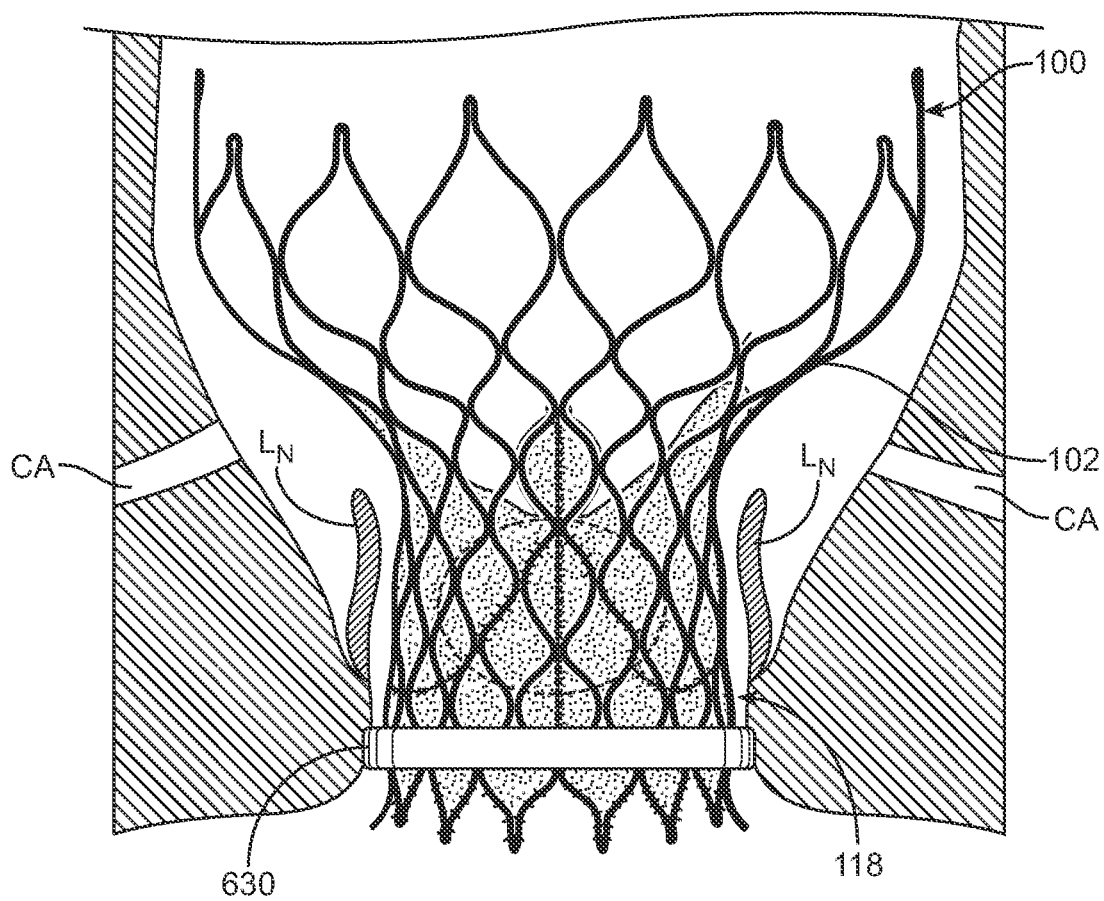


FIG. 6

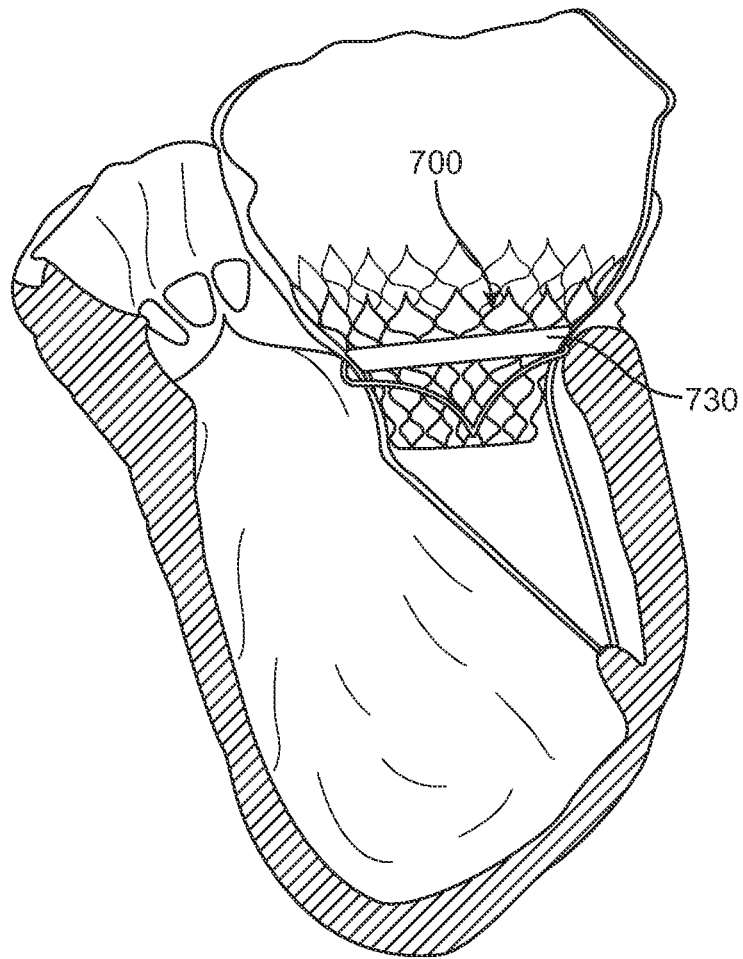


FIG. 7

FIG. 8

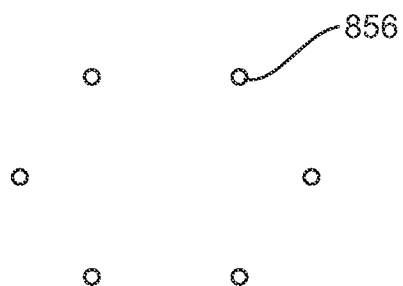


FIG. 8A

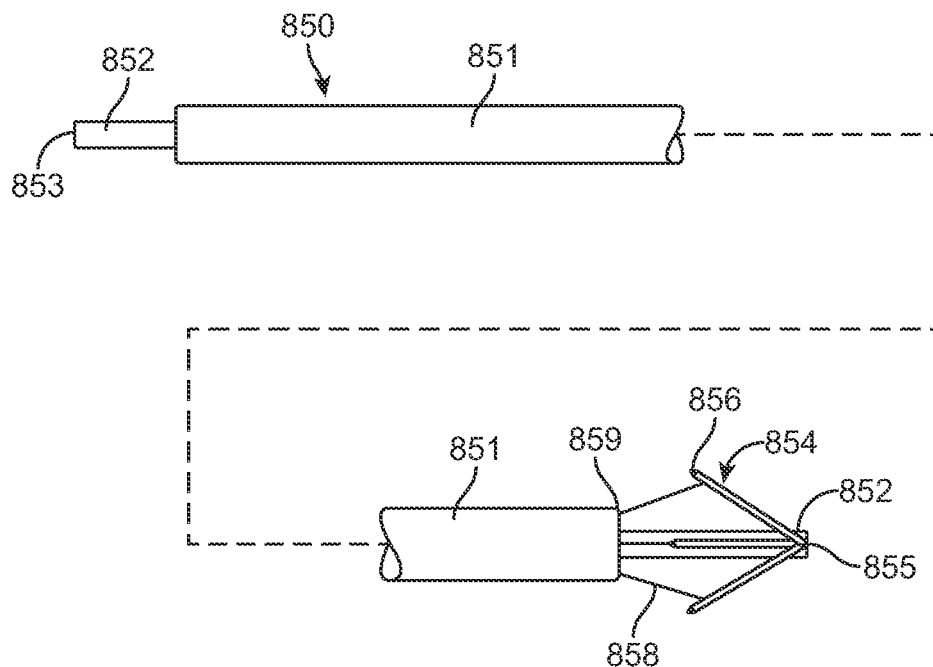


FIG. 8B

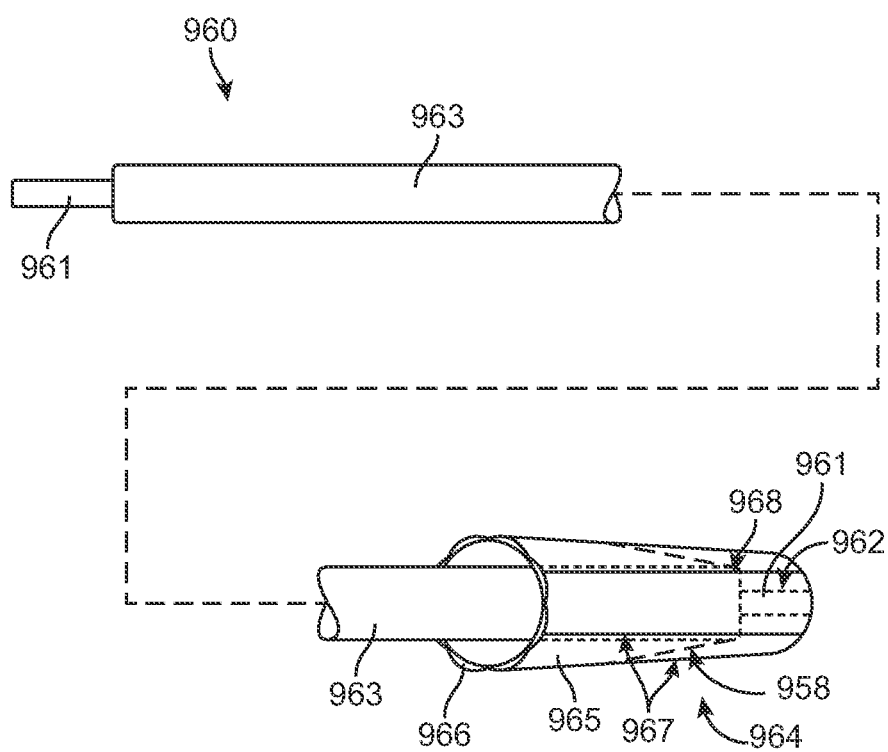
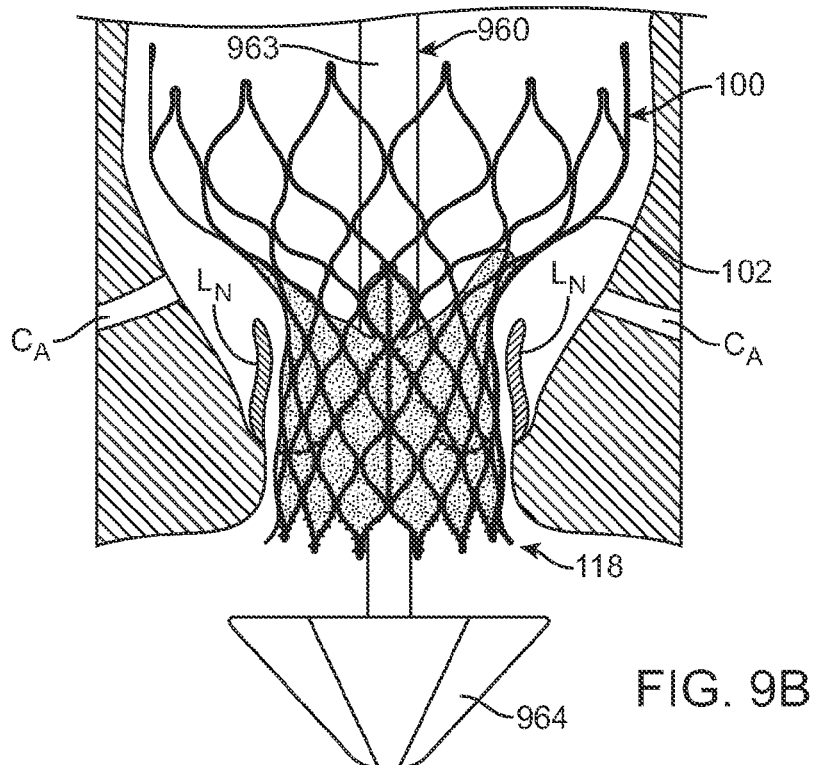
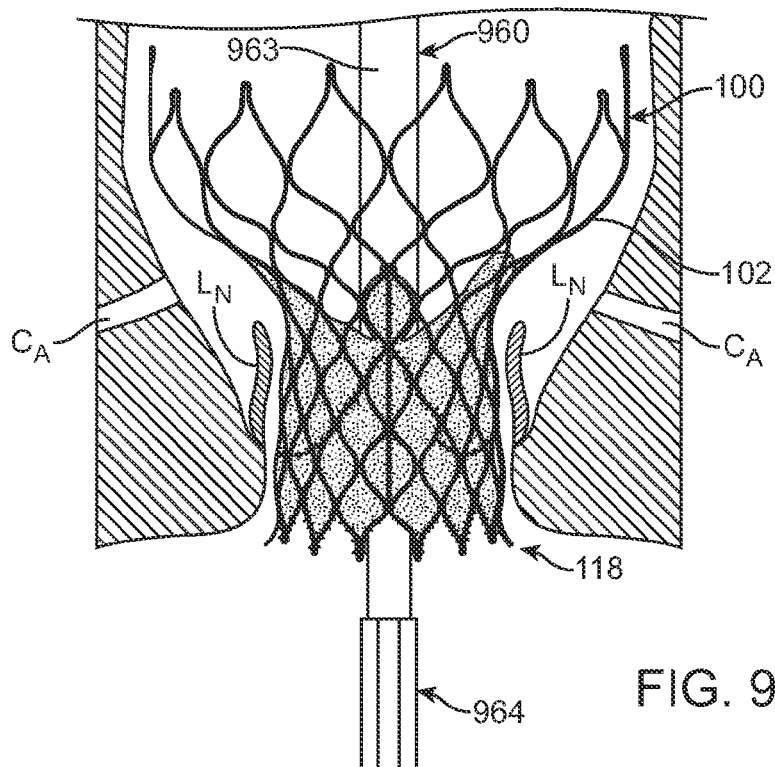


FIG. 9



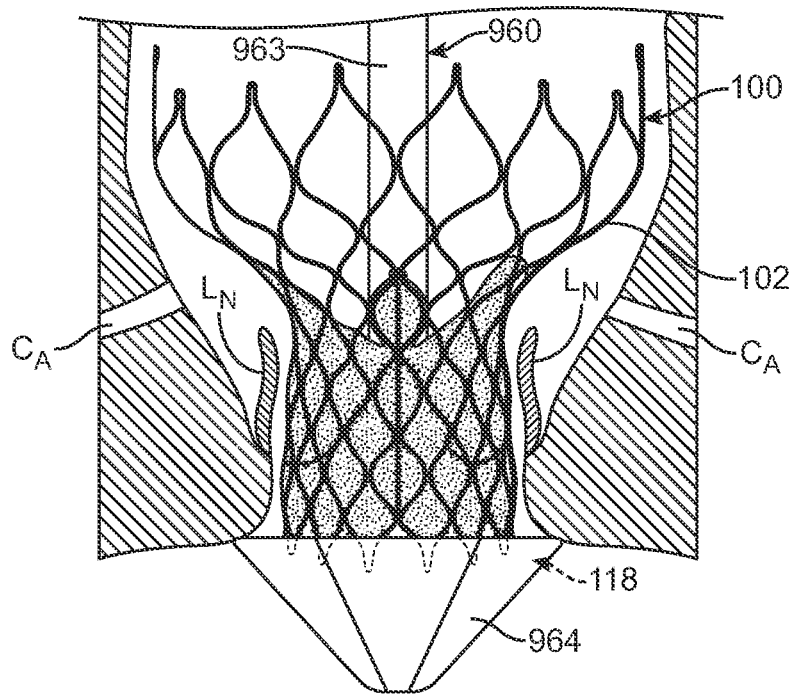


FIG. 9C

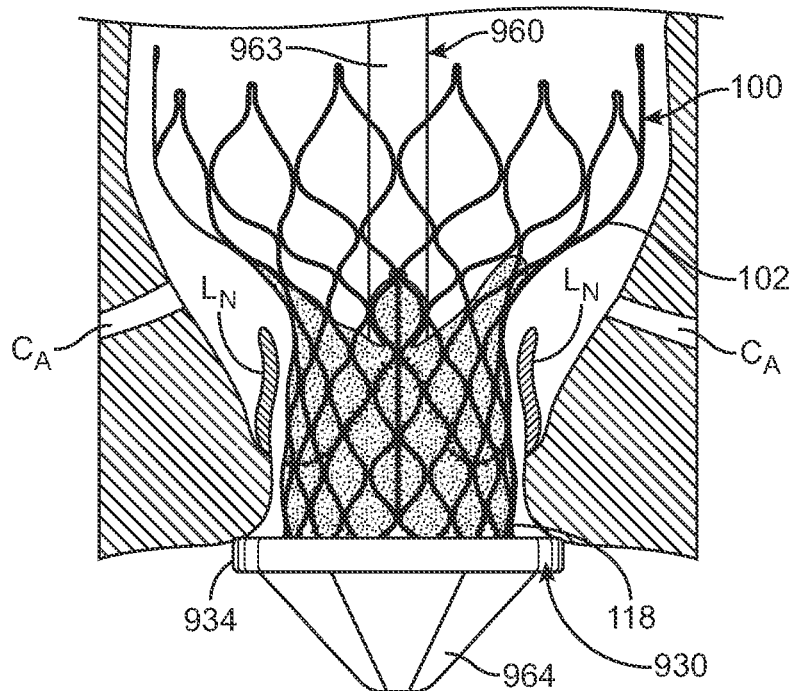


FIG. 9D

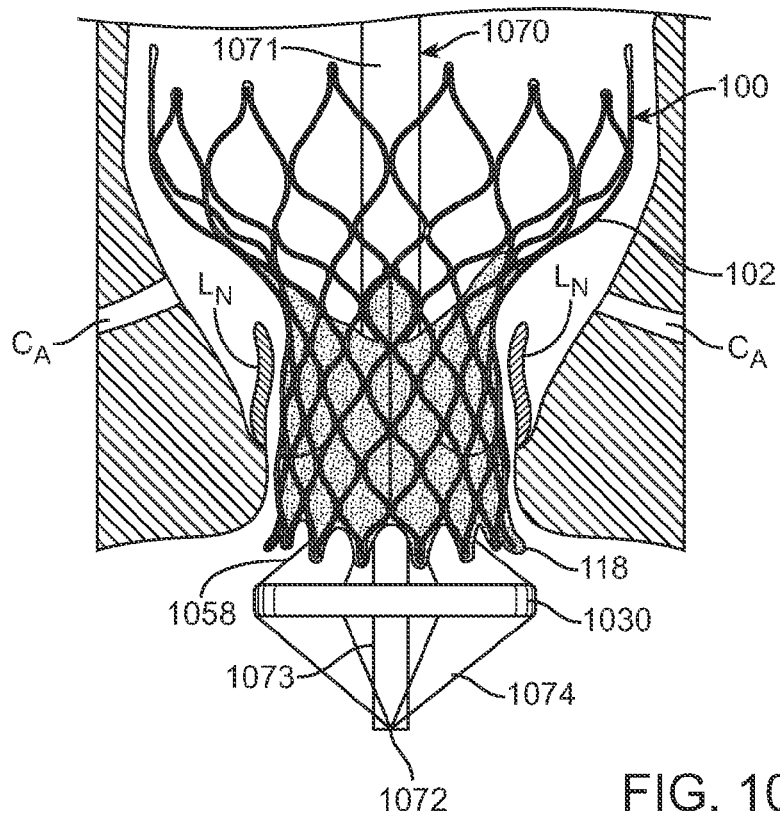


FIG. 10A

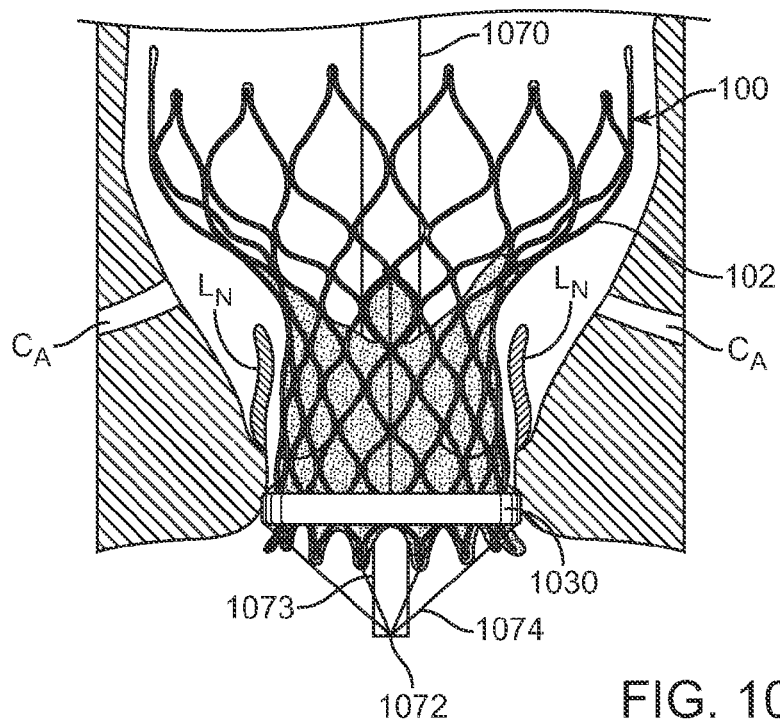


FIG. 10B

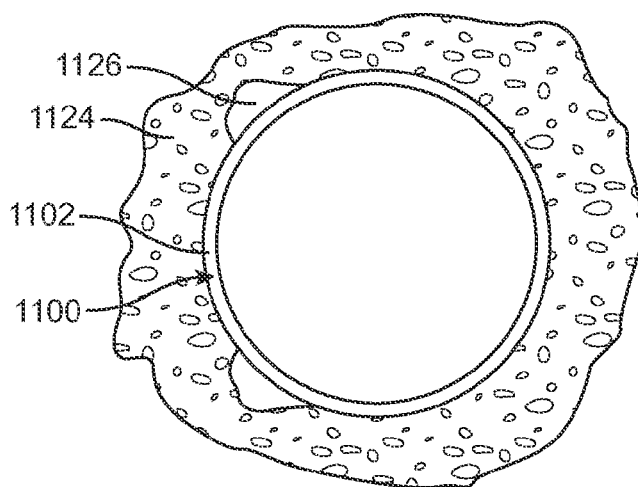


FIG. 11A

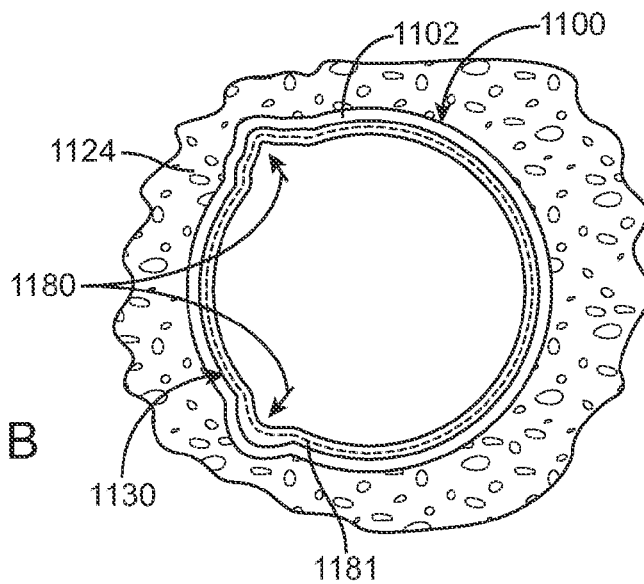


FIG. 11B

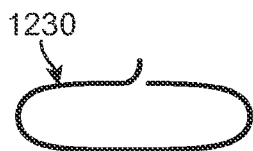


FIG. 12

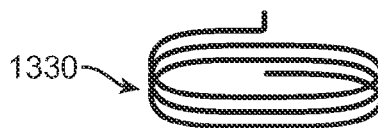


FIG. 13

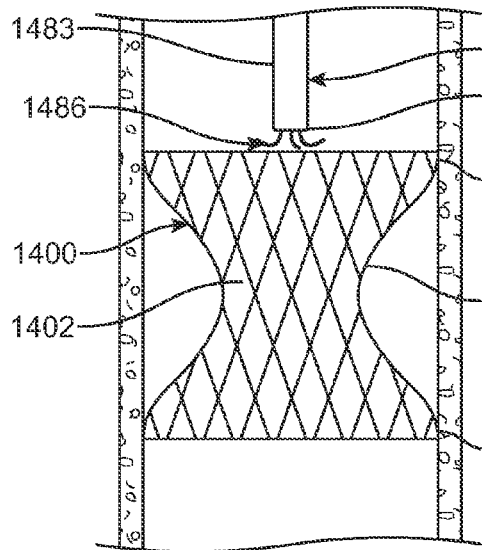


FIG. 14A

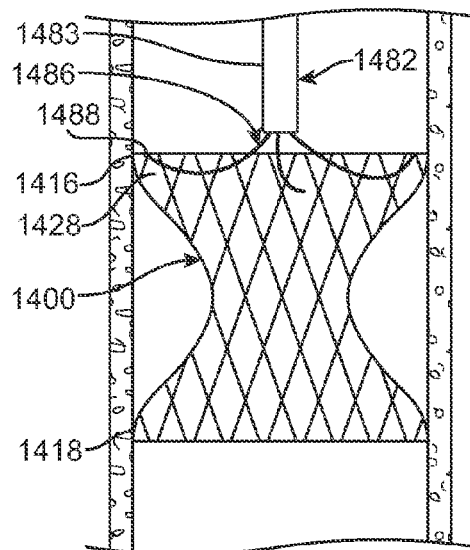


FIG. 14B

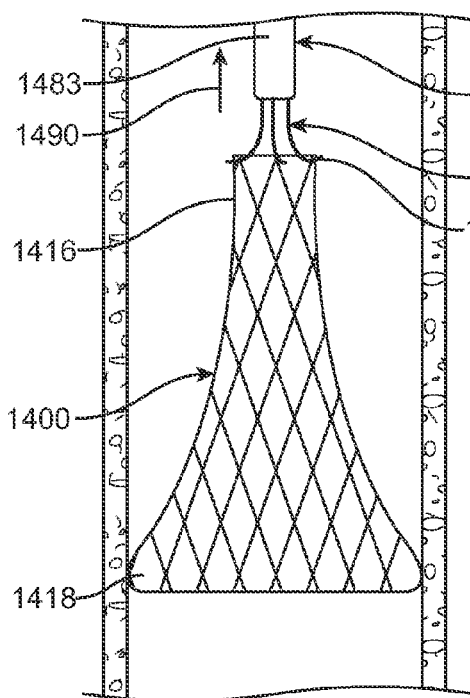


FIG. 14C

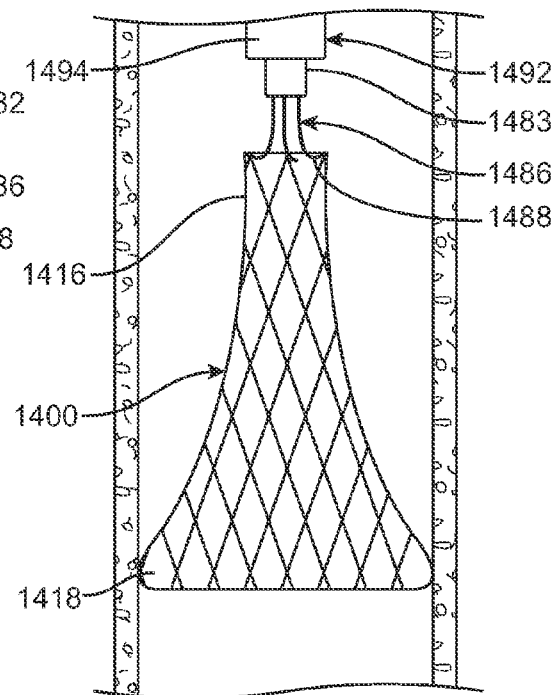


FIG. 14D

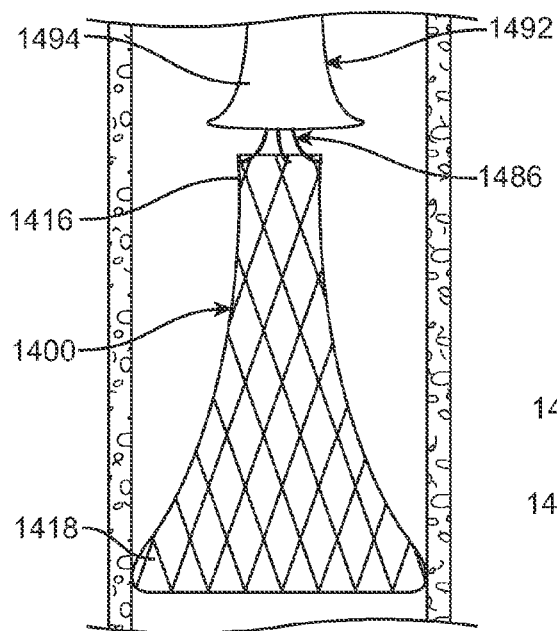


FIG. 14E

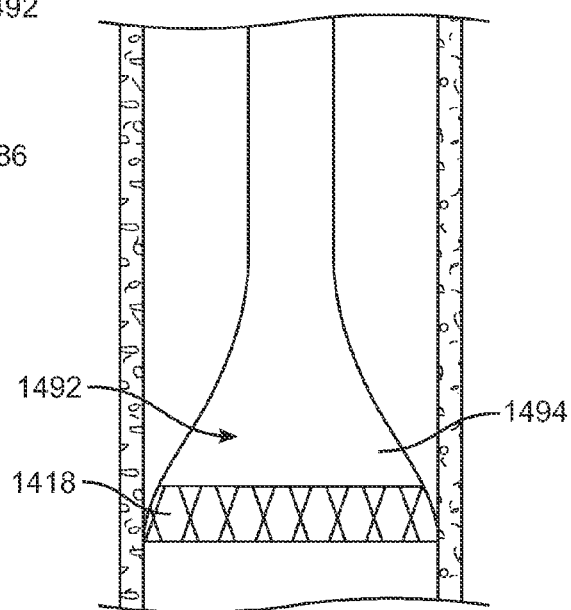


FIG. 14F

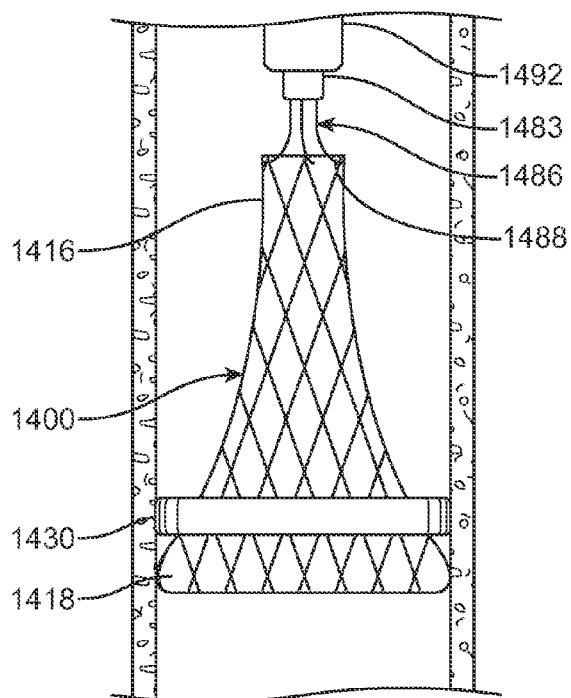


FIG. 14G

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METHODS AND DEVICES FOR REPAIRING AND/OR PREVENTING PARAVALVULAR LEAKAGE POST-IMPLANTATION OF A VALVE PROSTHESIS

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to heart valve prostheses and methods of repairing and/or preventing paravalvular leakage. More specifically, the present invention relates to sealing material or elements that are applied post-implantation of a valve prosthesis to seal gaps between a valve frame and native valve tissue.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

A human heart includes four heart valves that determine the pathway of blood flow through the heart: the mitral valve, the tricuspid valve, the aortic valve, and the pulmonary valve. The mitral and tricuspid valves are atrioventricular valves, which are between the atria and the ventricles, while the aortic and pulmonary valves are semilunar valves, which are in the arteries leaving the heart. Ideally, native leaflets of a heart valve move apart from each other when the valve is in an open position, and meet or "coapt" when the valve is in a closed position. Problems that may develop with valves include stenosis in which a valve does not open properly, and/or insufficiency or regurgitation in which a valve does not close properly. Stenosis and insufficiency may occur concomitantly in the same valve. The effects of valvular dysfunction vary, with regurgitation or backflow typically having relatively severe physiological consequences to the patient.

Recently, flexible prosthetic valves supported by stent structures that can be delivered percutaneously using a catheter-based delivery system have been developed for heart and venous valve replacement. These prosthetic valves may include either self-expanding or balloon-expandable stent structures with valve leaflets attached to the interior of the stent structure. The prosthetic valve can be reduced in diameter, by crimping onto a balloon catheter or by being contained within a sheath component of a delivery catheter, and advanced through the venous or arterial vasculature. Once the prosthetic valve is positioned at the treatment site, for instance within an incompetent native valve, the stent structure may be expanded to hold the prosthetic valve firmly in place. One example of a stented prosthetic valve is disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 5,957,949 to Leonhardt et al. entitled "Percutaneous Placement Valve Stent", which is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety. Another example of a stented prosthetic valve for a percutaneous pulmonary valve replacement procedure is described in U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0199971 A1 and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0199963 A1, both filed by Tower et al., each of which is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

Although transcatheter delivery methods have provided safer and less invasive methods for replacing a defective native heart valve, leakage between the implanted prosthetic valve and the surrounding native tissue is a recurring problem. Leakage sometimes occurs due to the fact that minimally invasive and percutaneous replacement of cardiac valves typically does not involve actual physical removal of the diseased or injured heart valve. Rather, the replacement stented prosthetic valve is delivered in a compressed condition to the valve site, where it is expanded to its operational state within the mitral valve. Calcified or diseased native leaflets are pressed to the side walls of the native valve by the

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radial force of the stent frame of the prosthetic valve. These calcified leaflets do not allow complete conformance of the stent frame with the native valve and can be a source of paravalvular leakage (PVL). Significant pressure gradients across the valve cause blood to leak through the gaps between the implanted prosthetic valve and the calcified anatomy.

Embodiments hereof are related to methods of repairing or preventing paravalvular leakage after implantation of the heart valve prosthesis.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Embodiments hereof relate to a method of preventing and/or repairing paravalvular leakage. According to one embodiment hereof, a catheter is advanced to a previously implanted valve prosthesis. The catheter is configured to deliver an injectable sealing material. The sealing material is injected adjacent to the implanted valve prosthesis within a native valve sinus of the native valve via the catheter. The sealing material is allowed to expand and solidify in situ to form a sealing element that presses a native valve leaflet against the implanted valve prosthesis to close and/or prevent gaps between the implanted valve prosthesis and native valve tissue to repair and/or prevent paravalvular leakage.

According to another embodiment hereof, a catheter is advanced to a previously implanted valve prosthesis. The catheter is configured to deliver an injectable sealing material. The sealing material is injected around an outer surface of the implanted valve via the catheter. The sealing material is allowed to expand and solidify in situ to form an annular sealing element that extends between the outer surface of the implanted valve prosthesis and native valve tissue to close and/or prevent gaps between the implanted valve prosthesis and native valve tissue to repair and/or prevent paravalvular leakage.

According to another embodiment hereof, a catheter including a preformed annular sealing component mounted thereon is advanced to a previously implanted valve prosthesis. The preformed annular sealing component is positioned onto the implanted valve prosthesis, wherein the sealing component closes and/or prevents gaps between the implanted valve prosthesis and native valve tissue to prevent and/or repair paravalvular leakage.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

The foregoing and other features and advantages of the invention will be apparent from the following description of embodiments hereof as illustrated in the accompanying drawings. The accompanying drawings, which are incorporated herein and form a part of the specification, further serve to explain the principles of the invention and to enable a person skilled in the pertinent art to make and use the invention. The drawings are not to scale.

FIG. 1 is a side view illustration of an exemplary heart valve prosthesis for use in embodiments hereof.

FIG. 1A is a top view illustration of the heart valve prosthesis of FIG. 1.

FIG. 1B is a side view illustration of an alternative configuration of a heart valve prosthesis for use in embodiments hereof.

FIG. 1C is a side view illustration of an alternative configuration of a heart valve prosthesis for use in embodiments hereof.

FIG. 2 is a side view illustration of the heart valve prosthesis of FIG. 1 implanted within a native valve annulus.

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FIG. 3 is a side view illustration of a method of repairing or preventing paravalvular leakage according to an embodiment hereof, wherein sealing material is injected within a native valve sinus to press native valve tissue against a previously implanted heart valve prosthesis.

FIG. 3A is a side view illustration of a method of repairing or preventing paravalvular leakage according to an embodiment hereof, wherein an expandable balloon is utilized to direct the injected sealing material into the native valve sinus.

FIG. 4 is a side view illustration of a method of repairing or preventing paravalvular leakage according to an embodiment hereof, wherein a blocking catheter is placed within a coronary artery ostium for protection thereof when sealing material is injected within a native valve sinus to press native valve tissue against a previously implanted heart valve prosthesis.

FIG. 5 is a side view illustration of a method of repairing or preventing paravalvular leakage according to an embodiment hereof, wherein sealing material is injected within a native valve sinus to press native valve tissue against a previously implanted heart valve prosthesis and heat is utilized to expand and/or solidify the sealing material in situ.

FIG. 6 is a side view illustration of a method of repairing or preventing paravalvular leakage at an aortic valve according to an embodiment hereof, wherein annular sealing material is positioned around an outer surface of a previously implanted heart valve prosthesis.

FIG. 7 is a side view illustration of a method of repairing or preventing paravalvular leakage at a mitral valve according to an embodiment hereof, wherein annular sealing material is positioned around an outer surface of a previously implanted heart valve prosthesis.

FIGS. 8, 8A, and 8B illustrate a method of and a device for repairing or preventing paravalvular leakage at an aortic valve according to an embodiment hereof, wherein injectable annular sealing material is positioned around an outer surface of a previously implanted heart valve prosthesis via a plurality of needles.

FIGS. 9, 9A-9D illustrate a method of and a device for repairing or preventing paravalvular leakage at an aortic valve according to an embodiment hereof, wherein injectable annular sealing material is positioned around an outer surface of a previously implanted heart valve prosthesis via circumferential delivery of the sealing material.

FIGS. 10A-10B illustrate a method of repairing or preventing paravalvular leakage at an aortic valve according to an embodiment hereof, wherein a preformed annular sealing element is positioned around an outer surface of a previously implanted heart valve prosthesis.

FIGS. 11A-11B illustrate a method of repairing or preventing paravalvular leakage at a heart valve according to an embodiment hereof, wherein a preformed annular sealing element is positioned within a previously implanted heart valve prosthesis to press a support frame or stent of the previously implanted heart valve prosthesis against native valve tissue.

FIG. 12 is a perspective view of an alternative preformed annular sealing element having a single loop or winding that may be positioned within a previously implanted heart valve prosthesis to press a support frame or stent of the previously implanted heart valve prosthesis against native valve tissue.

FIG. 13 is a perspective view of an alternative preformed annular sealing element having a plurality of loops or windings that may be positioned within a previously implanted heart valve prosthesis to press a support frame or stent of the previously implanted heart valve prosthesis against native valve tissue.

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FIGS. 14A-14G illustrate a method of using an in situ crimping device to deliver an annular sealing element.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Specific embodiments of the present invention are now described with reference to the figures, wherein like reference numbers indicate identical or functionally similar elements. The terms “distal” and “proximal” are used in the following description with respect to a position or direction relative to the treating clinician. “Distal” or “distally” are a position distant from or in a direction away from the clinician. “Proximal” and “proximally” are a position near or in a direction toward the clinician.

The following detailed description is merely exemplary in nature and is not intended to limit the invention or the application and uses of the invention. Although the description of the invention is in the context of treatment of heart valves, the invention may also be used where it is deemed useful in other valved intraluminal sites that are not in the heart. For example, the present invention may be applied to venous valves as well. Furthermore, there is no intention to be bound by any expressed or implied theory presented in the preceding technical field, background, brief summary or the following detailed description.

FIG. 1 depicts an exemplary heart valve prosthesis **100**. Heart valve prosthesis **100** is illustrated herein in order to facilitate description of the methods and devices to prevent and/or repair paravalvular leakage according to embodiments hereof. It is understood that any number of alternate heart valve prostheses can be used with the methods and devices described herein. Heart valve prosthesis **100** is merely exemplary and is described in more detail in U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2011/0172765 to Nguyen et al., which is herein incorporated by reference in its entirety.

Heart valve prosthesis **100** includes an expandable stent or frame **102** that supports a prosthetic valve component within the interior of stent **102**. In embodiments hereof, stent **102** is self-expanding to return to an expanded deployed state from a compressed or constricted delivery state and may be made from stainless steel, a pseudo-elastic metal such as a nickel titanium alloy or Nitinol, or a so-called super alloy, which may have a base metal of nickel, cobalt, chromium, or other metal. “Self-expanding” as used herein means that stent **102** has a mechanical memory to return to the expanded or deployed configuration. Mechanical memory may be imparted to the wire or tubular structure that forms stent **102** by thermal treatment to achieve a spring temper in stainless steel, for example, or to set a shape memory in a susceptible metal alloy, such as nitinol, or a polymer, such as any of the polymers disclosed in U.S. Pat. Appl. Pub. No. 2004/0111111 to Lin, which is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety. In another embodiment hereof, stent **102** is balloon-expandable.

In the embodiment depicted in FIGS. 1 and 1A, stent **102** of valve prosthesis **100** has a deployed configuration including an enlarged first end or section **116**, a constriction or waist region **117**, and a second end or section **118**. Enlarged first section **116** has nominal deployed diameter D_1 , second section **118** has nominal deployed diameter D_2 , and constriction region **117** has deployed substantially fixed diameter D_3 . Each section of stent **102**, may be designed with a number of different configurations and sizes to meet the different requirements of the location in which it may be implanted. When configured as a replacement for an aortic valve, second section **118** functions as an inflow end of heart valve prosthesis **100** and extends into and anchors within the aortic annulus

of a patient's left ventricle, while first section **116** functions as an outflow end of heart valve prosthesis **100** and is positioned in the patient's ascending aorta. When configured as a replacement for a mitral valve, enlarged first section **116** functions as an inflow end of heart valve prosthesis **100** and is positioned in the patient's left atrium, while second section **118** functions as an outflow end of heart valve prosthesis **100** and extends into and anchors within the mitral annulus of a patient's left ventricle. For example, U.S. Patent Application Publication Nos. 2012/0101572 to Kovalsky et al. and 2012/0035722 to Tuval, each of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety, illustrate heart valve prostheses configured for placement in a mitral valve. Each section of stent **102** may have the same or different cross-section which may be for example circular, ellipsoidal, rectangular, hexagonal, rectangular, square, or other polygonal shape, although at present it is believed that circular or ellipsoidal may be preferable when the valve prosthesis is being provided for replacement of the aortic or mitral valve. As alternatives to the deployed configuration of FIGS. **1** and **1A**, the stent/valve support frame may have an hourglass configuration **102B** shown in FIG. **1B**, a generally tubular configuration **1020** as shown in FIG. **10**, or other stent configuration or shape known in the art for valve replacement. Stent **102** also may include eyelets **108** that extend from first end **116** thereof for use in loading the heart valve prosthesis **100** into a delivery catheter (not shown).

As previously mentioned, heart valve prosthesis **100** includes a prosthetic valve component within the interior of stent **102**. The prosthetic valve component is capable of blocking flow in one direction to regulate flow there through via valve leaflets **104** that may form a bicuspid or tricuspid replacement valve. FIG. **1A** is an end view of FIG. **1** and illustrates an exemplary tricuspid valve having three leaflets **104**, although a bicuspid leaflet configuration having two leaflets or a monocuspid leaflet configuration having only one leaflet may alternatively be used in embodiments hereof. More particularly, if heart valve prosthesis **100** is configured for placement within a native valve having three leaflets such as the aortic, tricuspid, or pulmonary valves, heart valve prosthesis **100** includes three valve leaflets **104**. If heart valve prosthesis **100** is configured for placement within a native valve having two leaflets such as the mitral valve, heart valve prosthesis **100** includes two valve leaflets **104**. Valve leaflets **104** are sutured or otherwise securely and sealingly attached to the interior surface of stent **102** and/or graft material **106** which encloses or lines stent **102** as would be known to one of ordinary skill in the art of prosthetic tissue valve construction. Referring to FIG. **1**, leaflets **104** are attached along their bases **110** to graft material **106**, for example, using sutures or a suitable biocompatible adhesive. Adjoining pairs of leaflets are attached to one another at their lateral ends to form commissures **120**, with free edges **122** of the leaflets forming coaptation edges that meet in area of coaptation **114**.

Leaflets **104** may be made of pericardial material; however, the leaflets may instead be made of another material. Natural tissue for replacement valve leaflets may be obtained from, for example, heart valves, aortic roots, aortic walls, aortic leaflets, pericardial tissue, such as pericardial patches, bypass grafts, blood vessels, intestinal submucosal tissue, umbilical tissue and the like from humans or animals. Synthetic materials suitable for use as leaflets **104** include DACRON® polyester commercially available from Invista North America S.A.R.L. of Wilmington, Del., other cloth materials, nylon blends, polymeric materials, and vacuum deposition nitinol fabricated materials. One polymeric material from which the leaflets can be made is an ultra-high molecular weight poly-

ethylene material commercially available under the trade designation DYNEEMA from Royal DSM of the Netherlands. With certain leaflet materials, it may be desirable to coat one or both sides of the leaflet with a material that will prevent or minimize overgrowth. It is further desirable that the leaflet material is durable and not subject to stretching, deforming, or fatigue.

Graft material **106** may also be a natural or biological material such as pericardium or another membranous tissue such as intestinal submucosa. Alternatively, graft material **106** may be a low-porosity woven fabric, such as polyester, Dacron fabric, or PTFE, which creates a one-way fluid passage when attached to the stent. In one embodiment, graft material **106** may be a knit or woven polyester, such as a polyester or PTFE knit, which can be utilized when it is desired to provide a medium for tissue ingrowth and the ability for the fabric to stretch to conform to a curved surface. Polyester velour fabrics may alternatively be used, such as when it is desired to provide a medium for tissue ingrowth on one side and a smooth surface on the other side. These and other appropriate cardiovascular fabrics are commercially available from Bard Peripheral Vascular, Inc. of Tempe, Ariz., for example.

Delivery of heart valve prosthesis **100** may be accomplished via a percutaneous transfemoral approach or a transapical approach directly through the apex of the heart via a thoracotomy, or may be positioned within the desired area of the heart via different delivery methods known in the art for accessing heart valves. During delivery, the prosthetic valve remains compressed until it reaches a target diseased native heart valve, at which time the heart valve prosthesis **100** can be released from the delivery catheter and expanded in situ via self-expansion or alternatively balloon-expansion. The delivery catheter is then removed and heart valve prosthesis **100** remains deployed within the native target heart valve.

FIG. **2** is a side view illustration of heart valve prosthesis **100** implanted within a native heart valve, which is shown in section, having native leaflets L_N and corresponding native sinuses S_N . When heart valve prosthesis **100** is deployed within the valve annulus of a native heart valve, stent **102** expands within native valve leaflets L_N of the patient's defective valve, retaining the native valve leaflets in a permanently open state. The native valve annulus may include surface irregularities on the inner surface thereof, and as a result one or more gaps or cavities **226** may be present or may form between the perimeter of heart valve prosthesis **100** and the native valve annulus. For example, calcium deposits may be present on the native valve leaflets (e.g., stenotic valve leaflets) and/or shape differences may be present between the native heart valve annulus and prosthesis **100**. For example, in some cases native annuli are not perfectly rounded and have indentations corresponding to the commissural points of the native valve leaflets. As a result, a prosthesis having an approximately circular shape does not provide an exact fit in a native valve. These surface irregularities, whatever their underlying cause, can make it difficult for conventional prosthetic valves to form a blood tight seal between the prosthetic valve and the inner surface of the valve annulus, causing undesirable paravalvular leakage and/or regurgitation at the implantation site.

Embodiments hereof relate to methods for delivering a sealing element post-implantation of heart valve prosthesis **100** that functions to occlude or fill gaps **226**, thereby reducing, minimizing, or eliminating leaks there through. "Sealing element" as used herein includes injectable material that forms a sealing element in situ or a preformed annular sealing component or element. FIGS. **3-5** relate to embodiments

hereof in which injectable material is placed within a native valve sinus to form a sealing element that presses native valve leaflets against an outer surface of a heart valve prosthesis, FIGS. 6-10 and 14A-14D relate to embodiments hereof in which injectable sealing material or a preformed annular sealing component is positioned between the outer surface or perimeter of a heart valve prosthesis and a native heart valve annulus, and FIGS. 11-13 relates to embodiments hereof in which a preformed sealing element or component is placed within a heart valve prosthesis to press the prosthesis against native valve tissue.

In an embodiment hereof shown in FIG. 3, a sealing element 330 is positioned within a native valve sinus S_N and functions to push native valve leaflet L_N against the outside surface or perimeter of heart valve prosthesis 100, thereby filling any gaps which are present between heart valve prosthesis 100 and the native valve annulus and preventing paravalvular leakage. Sealing element 330 is formed after implantation of heart valve prosthesis 100 via percutaneous injection of an injectable, self-expanding substance such as gel or foam. More particularly, a delivery catheter 332 is advanced such that a distal end 336 thereof is located adjacent to a native valve sinus S_N . Because first end 116 of stent 102 employs relatively large cells or openings 328 that are not covered by graft material, prosthesis 100 does not obstruct subsequent catheter access to the native valve sinuses. Catheter 332 may be for example a catheter such as the ProFlo™ Angiographic Catheter or the Site Seer Catheter, both available from Medtronic, Inc. of Minneapolis, Minn., which adapted for use herein to deliver an injectable, self-expanding substance, or any diagnostic or therapeutic catheter suitable for delivery of an injectable substance such as a contrast medium or therapeutic substance. A self-expanding injectable substance 334 is delivered through a lumen (not shown) to distal end 336 of catheter 332, and is injected into a native valve sinus S_N . Suitable materials for self-expanding injectable substance 334 include but are not limited to hydrogel or a collagen foam/sponge similar to the material commercially available under the trademark Angioseal.

Once self-expanding injectable substance 334 exits catheter 332, it self-expands within native valve sinus S_N and pushes native valve leaflet L_N against the outside surface or perimeter of heart valve prosthesis 100, thereby substantially filling any gaps which are present between heart valve prosthesis 100 and native valve tissue. "Substantially" as utilized herein means that blood flow through the target gap or cavity is occluded or blocked, or stated another way blood is not permitted to flow there through. After delivery from catheter 332, self-expanding injectable substance 334 solidifies or firms upon contact with or exposure to a liquid, i.e., blood, such that it forms sealing element 330 that remains in situ within native valve sinus S_N to provide a seal between an outer surface of prosthesis 100 and the inner surface of native valve leaflet L_N . Sealing element 330 pushes or displaces one or more of the native valve leaflets L_N against prosthesis 100 to provide a seal between an outer surface of the prosthesis 100 and the displaced native valve leaflets L_N . The seal blocks retrograde blood flow around the outside of prosthesis 100, thereby minimizing and/or eliminating any paravalvular leakage at the implantation site. The shape and size of sealing element 330 depending on shape and size of the native valve sinuses S_N . As is generally known in the art, the size and dimensions of areas of a native valve will vary widely from one patient to another, thus the size and dimensions of the sealing element or component 330 may vary accordingly.

In an embodiment depicted in FIG. 3A, catheter 332 may include an expandable balloon 337 proximal to distal end

336. When expanded in situ within the native valve sinus S_N as shown in FIG. 3A, balloon 337 directs the self-expanding injectable substance in a distal direction upon exiting from distal end 336 of catheter 332 so that sealing element 330 substantially fills native valve sinus S_N . Stated another way, balloon 337 operates as an occluding element that blocks or prevents the self-expanding injectable substance from moving in a proximal direction, away from the native valve sinus S_N .

In an embodiment depicted in FIG. 4, a blocking catheter may be utilized in a coronary artery during the formation of sealing element 330. More particularly, if sealing element 330 is utilized in the aortic valve, the coronary arteries C_A originate or branch from two of the native valve sinuses. The left coronary artery originates from the left posterior aortic sinus, and the right coronary artery originates from the anterior aortic sinus. Usually, no vessels branch from the right posterior aortic sinus, which is therefore known as the non-coronary sinus. Referring to FIG. 4, a blocking catheter 340 may be placed into at least an ostium of a coronary artery C_A for protection thereof during injection of self-expanding injectable substance 334. In an embodiment, blocking catheter 340 is a balloon catheter having an inflatable balloon 339 at its distal end 338. Blocking catheter 340 is shown after having been introduced into the vasculature via a percutaneous puncture, a.k.a the Seldinger technique, and having been tracked through the vasculature, over the aortic arch and into the descending aorta. Distal end 338 of blocking catheter 340 may be threaded through openings 328 of first section 116 of stent 102, and positioned within the ostium of coronary artery C_A . Blood flow is permitted through a lumen (not shown) of blocking catheter 340 to allow for perfusion of coronary artery C_A during the formation of sealing element 330. Balloon 339 is inflated such that its outer surface or diameter is in apposition with a vessel wall of the coronary artery C_A and/or the coronary artery ostium so that self-expanding injectable substance 334 is not permitted or blocked from entering into coronary artery C_A . Balloon 339 is shown in its inflated configuration in FIG. 4. Conventional balloon catheters that may be used as blocking catheter 340 include any type of catheter known in the art, including over-the-wire catheters, rapid-exchange catheters, core wire catheters, and any other appropriate balloon catheters. For example, conventional balloon catheters such as those shown or described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 6,736,827; 6,554,795; 6,500,147; and 5,458,639, which are incorporated by reference herein in their entirety, may be modified for use herein.

In an embodiment, the injectable substance that forms a sealing element may expand or solidify upon heating. More particularly, referring to FIG. 5, a delivery catheter 532 is advanced such that a distal end 536 thereof is located adjacent to or within a native valve sinus S_N . Catheter 532 includes an electrode 542 adjacent distal end 536, and may be for example a catheter having an electrode at its distal end for radiofrequency (RF) ablation and a lumen for irrigation or delivery of a therapeutic substance, such as that described in U.S. Pat. No. 8,083,732 to Arless et al., assigned to Medtronic Cryocath LP, herein incorporated by reference in its entirety. Although FIG. 5 illustrates a single catheter for delivery and heating of an injectable substance, it would be understood by one of ordinary skill in the art that a first catheter may be used for delivery of injectable substance and a second, separate catheter may be used for heating of the injectable substance. An injectable substance 534 is delivered through catheter 532 and is introduced into a native valve sinus S_N . In a first embodiment, expansion of injectable substance 534 is activated via heat from electrode 542 such that upon heating,

injectable substance **534** expands within the base of native valve sinus S_N to push native valve leaflet L_N against the outside surface or perimeter of heart valve prosthesis **100**, thereby substantially filling any gaps which are present between heart valve prosthesis **100** and the native valve annulus. In a second embodiment, injectable substance **534** is self-expanding upon exiting catheter **532** similar to injectable substance **334** described above with respect to FIG. 3. However, solidification or firming of self-expanding injectable substance **534** is activated via heat from electrode **542** such that upon heating, injectable substance **534** forms a sealing element **530** that remains in situ within native valve sinus S_N . Suitable materials for self-expanding injectable substance **534** include but are not limited to a silicone sealant or adhesive.

In other embodiments hereof, an annular sealing element may be placed around the outer surface or perimeter of heart valve prosthesis **100**, post-implantation of the heart valve prosthesis, to repair and/or prevent paravalvular leakage. More particularly, FIG. 6 illustrates an annular sealing element **630** around the outer surface or perimeter of heart valve prosthesis **100** implanted within an aortic valve. Annular sealing element **630** may be positioned at the valve annulus, slightly above the valve annulus, slightly below the valve annulus, or some combination thereof. Annular sealing element **630** provides a continuous circumferential seal around heart valve prosthesis **100** to prevent blood flow between the outer surface or perimeter thereof and a native heart valve annulus. Although embodiments depicted herein may be described in relation to a heart valve prosthesis previously implanted within an aortic valve, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that such embodiments may be applied to heart valve prosthesis implanted within other heart valves. For example, FIG. 7 illustrates an annular sealing element **730** around the outer surface or perimeter of a heart valve prosthesis **700** implanted within a mitral valve. An annular sealing element may be positioned around the outer surface or perimeter of a previously implanted heart valve prosthesis using one of the following delivery methods described herein with respect to FIGS. 8-10.

In an embodiment depicted in FIGS. 8, 8A, and 8B, an annular sealing element such as that shown in FIGS. 6 and 7 is formed from an injectable, self-expanding gel or foam that may be delivered via a delivery catheter **850** including a plurality of deployable or radially expandable needles **854**. Each needle **854** is a tubular component having a lumen (not shown) there through for delivering the injectable, self-expanding gel or foam. Referring to FIG. 8, delivery catheter **850** is delivered through a previously implanted heart valve prosthesis **100**. In an embodiment hereof, placement of the annular sealing element occurs immediately after implantation of heart valve prosthesis **100**, and prior to guide wire removal, delivery catheter **850** may be tracked over the same guidewire previously utilized in the delivery of heart valve prosthesis **100**. In another embodiment, placement of the annular sealing element occurs during a distinct or secondary procedure from implantation of heart valve prosthesis **100**, and thus delivery catheter **850** may be tracked over a new guidewire tracked to the previously implanted heart valve prosthesis. Delivery catheter **850** is advanced in a retrograde manner across previously implanted heart valve prosthesis **100** such that the plurality of needles **854** are located distal to second end **118** of previously implanted heart valve prosthesis **100**. After delivery catheter **850** is positioned as desired, the plurality of needles **854** are deployed or radially expanded as shown in FIGS. 8 and 8A, with FIG. 8A depicting an end view of distal tips **856** (with other structure removed for

clarity) to illustrate the deployed circular configuration of the plurality of needles **854**. Deployment and collapse of needles **854** are discussed in more detail herein with respect to FIG. 8B. When radially expanded, distal tips **856** of the plurality of needles **854** may be spaced apart in approximately equal intervals or segments and form a discontinuous ring or circle, as shown in FIG. 8A. Although shown with six needles **854**, it will be understood by one of ordinary skill in the art that a catheter having a greater or lesser number of deployable needles may be utilized herein. Once needles **854** are deployed or radially expanded, delivery catheter **850** is then proximally retracted as shown by directional arrow **844** such that distal tips **856** of the plurality of needles **854** pass through or within second end **118** of heart valve prosthesis **100** and then pierce and pass through graft material **106** of heart valve prosthesis **100** such that distal tips **856** are positioned circumferentially around the outer surface of previously implanted heart valve prosthesis **100**. Distal tips **856** may be pointed, sharpened, beveled, or have another configuration suitable for piercing through graft material **106** of heart valve prosthesis **100**. With distal tips **856** so positioned, the injectable, self-expanding gel or foam is delivered through inner shaft **852**, into needles **854**, and out distal tip **856**. When the injectable, self-expanding gel or foam exits distal tips **856**, the injectable, self-expanding gel or foam spreads away from distal tips **856** and tracks circumferentially around the native valve tissue to merge into an annular sealing element such as that shown in FIG. 6. The number of needles **854** and spacing therebetween may be designed to optimize the formation of the annular sealing element.

Although the annular sealing element of FIG. 6 is shown around second end **118** of heart valve prosthesis **100**, catheter **850** may utilize needles **854** to form an annular sealing element anywhere along the length of the heart valve prosthesis. Since the annular sealing element is formed after implantation of heart valve prosthesis **100**, longitudinal placement and/or the size and shape thereof is flexible and may be adjusted or adapted according to each application and to a patient's unique needs. For example, depending on the anatomy of the particular patient, the annular sealing element may be formed between heart valve prosthesis **100** and the interior surfaces of the native valve leaflets L_N , between heart valve prosthesis **100** and the interior surfaces of the native valve annulus, and/or between heart valve prosthesis **100** and the interior surfaces of the left ventricular outflow track (LVOT).

In another embodiment hereof (not shown), catheter **850** may include a lesser number of deployable needles **854** and the annular sealing element may be formed through a series of injections coupled with rotation of catheter **850**. In yet another embodiment hereof (not shown), catheter **850** may include a lesser number of deployable needles **854** that are configured to deliver sealing material at discrete, or non-continuous, locations around the perimeter of a previously implanted heart valve prosthesis. For example, sealing material may be delivered only at the commissures of the native valve.

Once the annular sealing element is formed, delivery catheter **850** may be moved in a distal direction such that distal tips **856** of needles **854** pass back through graft material **106** of heart valve prosthesis. The plurality of needles **854** may then be collapsed, as will be explained in more detail herein, and catheter **850** may be removed from the patient. When needles **854** are withdrawn through the graft material, small delivery holes may be present within graft material **106**. Since such delivery holes are located adjacent to the annular sealing member and are of sufficiently small dimension, no leakage

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occurs there through. In an embodiment, however, additional injectable, self-expanding gel or foam may be delivered through needles **854** to fill and seal these delivery holes prior to further withdrawal of the needles. In another embodiment, graft material **106** is a self-sealing material and such delivery holes close after removal of needles **854**.

FIG. **8B** illustrates a side view of catheter **850**, with needles **854** in a deployed or radially expanded configuration. Catheter **850** includes an outer sheath **851** and an inner shaft **852** extending there through. A proximal end **853** of inner shaft **852** extends out of the patient, and is in fluid communication with a source of the injectable, self-expanding gel or foam. Each needle **854** is connected to and proximally extends from a distal end **855** of inner shaft **852**, and the lumen of each needle **854** is in fluid connection with a lumen (not shown) of shaft **852** for delivery of the injectable, self-expanding gel or foam.

In an embodiment hereof, the plurality of needles **854** are formed from a self-expanding material such as NiTi (Nitinol) and deployment and collapse of needles **854** are accomplished via movement of outer sheath **851** relative to inner shaft **852**. To deploy needles **854**, outer sheath **851** is retracted relative to inner shaft **852** such that a distal end **859** thereof clears or releases distal tip **856** and needles **854** are allowed to self-expand. A plurality of linkages **858** proximally extend from distal tips **856** and proximal ends (not shown) of the linkages remain contained within outer sheath **851**. Although not visible in FIG. **8**, the proximal ends of the linkages may be coupled to a ring (also not shown) that is slidingly positioned over inner shaft **852**. When it is desired to collapse needles **854**, outer sheath **851** is distally advanced along linkages **858**, thereby collapsing needles **854** such that distal tip **856** fit within distal end **859** of the sheath. The ring that restrains or holds the proximal ends of the linkages ensures that the proximal linkage ends do not flare away from catheter **850** if they unintentionally become uncovered or released from outer sheath **851**, while allowing the proximal linkage ends to slide along an outer surface of inner shaft **852** for deployment and collapse.

In another embodiment hereof, rather than forming needles **854** from a self-expanding material, a proximal end of the linkages **858** may be connected to a distal end of a sliding tube or shaft (not shown) that is slidingly disposed over inner shaft **852** and extends to a proximal end of the catheter. The sliding tube or shaft is pushed and/or pulled by the operator to effectuate deployment and collapse of needles **854**. To deploy needles **854**, outer sheath **851** is retracted to expose needles **854**. The sliding tube or shaft may be pushed or distally advanced relative to inner shaft **852** to radially extend linkages **858**, thereby radially expanding needles **854** connected thereto by pushing them away from inner shaft **852**. When it is desired to collapse needles **854**, the sliding tube or shaft may be pulled or proximally retracted relative to inner shaft **852** to radially collapse linkages **858**, thereby radially collapsing needles **854** connected thereto by pulling them towards inner shaft **852**. Linkages **858** may include a bend or joint (not shown) along their length for effectuating radial extension and collapse thereof. After needles **854** are collapsed, outer sheath **851** is distally advanced relative to inner shaft **852** to cover the needles **854** and delivery catheter **850** may be removed from the patient.

In another embodiment hereof, the annular sealing element is formed via circumferential delivery of an injectable self-expanding substance such as gel or foam around an end of the heart valve prosthesis. More particularly, referring to FIG. **9**, a delivery catheter **960** is shown with a conical or frustoconical umbrella-like delivery component **964** in its deployed or

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expanded configuration for circumferentially delivering an injectable self-expanding substance. Delivery catheter **960** includes an outer shaft **963** which is slidingly disposed over an inner shaft **961**, which both extend proximally outside of the patient in situ. Umbrella-like delivery component **964** includes a plurality of circumferentially-spaced apart spokes or support arms **967**, the distal ends of which are coupled to a distal end **962** of inner shaft **961** and the proximal ends of which are unattached to be radially extended away from inner shaft **961**. Umbrella-like delivery component **964** also includes a plurality of segments **965** extending between adjacent spokes **967**. Each segment **965** is formed via a double-layer of fabric or flexible material and defines a lumen or port **966** between the material layers. Each lumen/port **966** is in fluid communication with a central lumen (not shown) of catheter **960**, i.e., a lumen defined by inner shaft **963**, for delivery of the injectable self-expanding substance. Umbrella-like delivery component **964** is deployed or expanded to the configuration shown in FIG. **9** via a plurality of linkages or hinges **958**, the distal ends of which are coupled to a distal end **968** of outer shaft **963**. In this configuration, hinges **958** are proximally-extending relative to distal end **968** of outer shaft **963** with the proximal ends thereof are coupled to spokes **967**. When outer shaft **963** is pulled or retracted in a proximal direction, the distal ends of hinges **958** also are pulled or retracted in a proximal direction, which causes the proximal ends of hinges **958**, coupled to spokes **967**, to radially extend away from outer shaft **963** and thereby radially expand spokes **967**. Conversely, when it is desired to collapse umbrella-like delivery component **964**, outer shaft **963** having the distal ends of hinges **958** coupled thereto is pushed or advanced in a distal direction to cause both hinges **958** and spokes **967** to radially collapse. Thus, outer shaft **963** is pushed and/or pulled by the operator to effectuate extension and collapse of linkages **958**, and therefore deployment and collapse of umbrella-like delivery component **964**. In another embodiment hereof (not shown), the hinges may be distally extending relative to distal end **968** of outer shaft **963** with the proximal ends thereof coupled to distal end **968** of outer shaft **963** and the distal ends thereof coupled to spokes **967**. In the distally extending configuration of the hinges, pushing or distal advancement of outer shaft **963** causes radial expansion of spokes **967** and pulling or proximal retraction of outer shaft **963** causes radial collapse of spokes **967**.

Turning now to FIG. **9A**, a method of using delivery catheter **960** to form an annular sealing element around an end of a heart valve prosthesis will be described. As described with respect in previous embodiments, placement of the annular sealing element may occur immediately after implantation of heart valve prosthesis **100** and thus may utilize the same guidewire previously utilized in the delivery of heart valve prosthesis **100**, or placement of the annular sealing element may occur during a distinct or secondary procedure from implantation of heart valve prosthesis **100** and thus utilize a new guidewire tracked to the previously implanted heart valve prosthesis. Delivery catheter **960** is advanced in a retrograde manner across previously implanted heart valve prosthesis **100** such that umbrella-like delivery component **964** is located distal to second end **118** of heart valve prosthesis **100** as shown in FIG. **9A**. As shown in FIG. **9A**, during delivery thereof, umbrella-like delivery component **964** is in a collapsed or non-expanded configuration. Although not shown, an outer sheath may cover the umbrella-like delivery component during delivery thereof.

After umbrella-like delivery component **964** is positioned as desired, umbrella-like delivery component **964** is deployed distal to second end **118** of previously implanted heart valve

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prosthesis **100** as shown in FIG. 9B. Umbrella-like delivery component **964** is deployed via proximal retraction of outer shaft **963** as described above with respect to FIG. 9. In an embodiment hereof, umbrella-like delivery component **964** is deployed solely via extension and collapse of linkages/hinges **958** so that a clinician/operator may control or customize the amount of opening of umbrella-like delivery component **964** to fit the appropriate circumference of previously implanted heart valve prosthesis **100** in the anatomy in which it sits. In another embodiment hereof, umbrella-like delivery component **964** may be formed from a self-expanding material such as stainless steel, a nickel titanium alloy or Nitinol, or a self-expanding polymer, to assist in deployment thereof. The position of outer shaft **963** may be locked in place at a proximal end of catheter **960** in order to temporarily hold or lock hinges/linkages **958** in the extended position, thereby temporarily holding or locking umbrella-like delivery component **964** in the deployed or expanded configuration.

Delivery catheter **960** is then proximally retracted such that umbrella-like delivery component **964** fits over and around second end **118** of previously implanted heart valve prosthesis **100** as shown in FIG. 9C. Umbrella-like delivery component **964** is expanded to a diameter slightly greater than the expanded diameter of second end **118** of previously implanted heart valve prosthesis **100**. A self-expanding injectable substance **934** is delivered through a lumen (not shown) of catheter **960** and exits from ports **966** of umbrella-like delivery component **964** as shown in FIG. 9D. The plurality of ports **966** of umbrella-like delivery component **964** circumferentially deliver self-expanding injectable substance **934** around second end **118** of previously implanted heart valve prosthesis **100**. Similar to other embodiments hereof, suitable materials for self-expanding injectable substance **934** include but are not limited to hydrogel or a collagen foam/sponge similar to the material commercially available under the trademark Angioseal. Once self-expanding injectable substance **934** exits catheter **960**, it self-expands around the outer surface or perimeter of heart valve prosthesis **100** to form an annular sealing element **930** which provides a continuous circumferential seal around heart valve prosthesis **100** to prevent blood flow between the outer surface or perimeter of heart valve prosthesis **100** and the native heart valve. After delivery from catheter **960**, self-expanding injectable substance **934** solidifies or firms such that it forms annular sealing element **930** that remains in situ around heart valve prosthesis **100**. Once annular sealing element **930** is formed, delivery catheter **960** may be proximally advanced such that umbrella-like delivery component **964** is distal to second end **118** of previously implanted heart valve prosthesis **100**. Umbrella-like delivery component **964** is collapsed via distal advancement of outer shaft **963** as described above with respect to FIG. 9, and catheter **960** may be removed from the patient.

In another embodiment hereof, the annular sealing element is a preformed continuous circular band that is percutaneously positioned around a previously implanted heart valve prosthesis. More particularly, referring to FIGS. 10A-10B, a delivery catheter **1070** is delivered through a previously implanted heart valve prosthesis **100**. As described with respect to FIG. 8, placement of the annular sealing element may occur immediately after implantation of heart valve prosthesis **100** and thus may utilize the same guidewire previously utilized in the delivery of heart valve prosthesis **100**, or placement of the annular sealing element may occur during a distinct or secondary procedure from implantation of heart valve prosthesis **100** and thus utilize a new guidewire tracked to the previously implanted heart valve prosthesis. Delivery

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catheter **1070** is advanced such that a distal end **1072** thereof is located distal to second end **118** of previously implanted heart valve prosthesis **100**. After delivery catheter **1070** is positioned as desired, a plurality of support arms **1074** radially expand an annular sealing element or component **1030** as shown in FIG. 10A. Distal ends of support arms **1074** are coupled to an inner shaft **1073**, while annular sealing element or component **1030** encircles proximal ends of support arms **1074**. In an embodiment hereof, to deploy support arms **1074**, the support arms are formed from a self-expanding material such as NiTi (Nitinol) and deployment and collapse thereof is accomplished via retraction of an outer sheath **1071** and a plurality of linkages **1058** having proximal ends still contained within the outer sheath to operate similar to the linkages described with respect to FIG. 8B. In another embodiment hereof, to deploy support arms **1074**, proximal ends of linkages **1058** are connected to a distal end of a sliding tube or shaft (not shown) that is slidably disposed over inner shaft **963** and extends to a proximal end of the catheter. The sliding tube or shaft may be pushed and/or pulled by the operator to effectuate deployment and collapse of support arms **1074**.

Delivery catheter **1060** is then proximally retracted such that annular sealing element or component **1030** fits over and around second end **118** of previously implanted heart valve prosthesis **100** as shown in FIG. 10B. Annular sealing element or component **1030** has an expanded outer diameter greater than the expanded diameter of second end **118** of previously implanted heart valve prosthesis **100** such that it functions to substantially seal any/all gaps between the heart valve prosthesis and the native valve tissue. In an embodiment hereof, annular sealing element or component **1030** is formed from an elastic material and may be stretched over second end **118** of previously implanted heart valve prosthesis **100** without recapture and/or collapse of stent **102**. In another embodiment hereof, as described in more detail herein with respect to FIGS. 14A-14E, a portion the previously implanted heart valve prosthesis may be recaptured and collapsed to assist in positioning annular sealing element **1030** over second end **118** of the heart valve prosthesis. Once annular sealing element **1030** is in place as desired, delivery catheter **1070** may be proximally advanced such that the plurality of support arms **1074** are distal to second end **118** of previously implanted heart valve prosthesis **100**. Linkages **1058** are radially collapsed, such as via advancement of outer sheath **1071** or by pulling the sliding tube or shaft, in order to collapse the plurality of support arms **1074**. Catheter **1060** may be removed from the patient.

In an embodiment hereof, annular sealing element **1030** may be formed from a swellable material that collapses easily and expands to a larger volume after implantation, such as but not limited to hydrogel or a collagen foam/sponge similar to the material commercially available under the trademark Angioseal. After annular sealing element **1030** is positioned around second end **118** of heart valve prosthesis **100**, the material of annular sealing element **1030** expands/swells into contact with native tissue such that it engages and conforms to the inner surface of the valve annulus including any surface irregularities that may be present. As such, annular sealing element **1030** provides a continuous circumferential seal around heart valve prosthesis **100** to prevent blood flow between the outer surface or perimeter of heart valve prosthesis **100** and the native heart valve. The composition of the swellable material may be configured to tailor the absorption rate thereof such that annular sealing element **1030** does not radially expand until it is positioned around second end **118** of heart valve prosthesis **100**.

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In another embodiment hereof, annular sealing element **1030** may be formed from an elastic material that provides a continuous circumferential seal around heart valve prosthesis **100** to prevent blood flow between the outer surface or perimeter of heart valve prosthesis **100** and the native heart valve. “Elastic” as used in this context includes materials that may be stretched or elongated to fit over and around second end **118** of heart valve prosthesis **100**, while also having sufficient resiliency to resume their original size/configuration and conform to the outer surface of the heart valve prosthesis. Suitable polymer materials include polymer materials such as polyurethane or silicone, as well as biological or natural materials such as pericardium or another membranous tissue such as intestinal submucosa. The elastic annular sealing element **1030** has sufficient resiliency to hold conform to and be secured over the outer surface of the heart valve prosthesis, but does not exert an amount of force that would result in constriction or reduction of the inner diameter of the heart valve prosthesis.

In yet another embodiment hereof, annular sealing element **1030** may be a hollow sac or membrane that is configured to be filled with an inflation medium that is delivered through a lumen (not shown) of catheter **1070** and the plurality of support arms **1074**. In this embodiment, the plurality of support arms **1074** need be in fluid communication with the lumen of the hollow sac or membrane of annular sealing element **1030** via one or more inflation ports (not shown). Suitable materials for the membrane include flexible/pliable polymers such as ePTFE, polyurethane, or silicone and suitable inflation medium include but are not limited to gels, biocompatible polymers including curable polymers, gases, saline, blood, and the like. As the inflation medium is delivered, annular sealing element **1030** radially expands into contact with native tissue such that it engages and conforms to the inner surface of the valve annulus including any surface irregularities that may be present. The annular sealing element **1030** is inflated to such an extent that a sufficient or satisfactory seal is created between prosthesis **100** and the inner surface of the native valve annulus. The expanded annular sealing element **1030** is compliant and fills any/all gaps existing between the prosthesis and the native valve tissue but does not reduce the inner diameter of prosthesis **100**. The inflation ports of annular sealing element **1030** may be sealed off to maintain constant pressure within the annular sealing element. In an embodiment, injectable, self-expanding gel or foam may be delivered to fill the inflation ports. In another embodiment, the material of the hollow sac or membrane is a self-sealing material and the inflation ports close after removal of support arms **1074**. In yet another embodiment, the inflation ports may include one-way check valves that allow passage of the inflation medium and prevent leakage/removal of the inflation medium after delivery thereof.

In other embodiments hereof shown in FIGS. **11A**, **11B** and **12**, an annular sealing element may alternatively and/or additionally be placed within a heart valve prosthesis **100**, post-implantation of the heart valve prosthesis, to repair and/or prevent paravalvular leakage. More particularly, referring to the cross-sectional view of FIG. **11A**, a heart valve prosthesis **1100** having a support frame or stent **1102** is shown deployed within a native valve annulus **1124**. Gaps or cavities **1126** are present between an outer surface of stent **1102** and the native tissue. As shown in FIG. **11B**, an annular sealing element **1130** expands against an inner surface of previously implanted heart valve prosthesis **1100** to press stent **1102** against native valve tissue, thereby substantially filling any gaps or cavities **1126**. Annular sealing element or component **1130** exerts a radial pressure onto the previously implanted

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heart valve prosthesis **1100** in a radially outward direction represented by the directional arrow **1180**. More particularly, an expanded or deployed outer diameter of annular sealing element or component **1130** is predetermined to be slightly greater than the expanded outer diameter of stent **1102**. When deployed, annular sealing element **1130** over-expands stent **1102** until the stent and/or the sealing element fill any/all gaps or cavities between the outer surface of the stent and native valve tissue. Due to annular sealing element **1130** having an expanded diameter slightly greater than the expanded diameter of stent **1102** of previously implanted heart valve prosthesis **1100**, annular sealing element **1130** is secured within heart valve prosthesis **110** via a friction or interference fit after deployment.

Annular sealing element **1130** may be delivered and radially expanded with a delivery catheter such as delivery catheter **1070** having a plurality of support arms **1074** described in relation to FIGS. **10A** and **10B**. In an embodiment hereof, annular sealing element **1130** may be formed from a flexible/pliable polymer material such as polyurethane or silicone. Annular sealing element **1130** may include a braided wire or element **1181** therein to strengthen annular sealing element **1130** and assist in securing annular sealing element **1130** within heart valve prosthesis **110** via a friction or interference fit after deployment. In another embodiment hereof, annular sealing element **1130** may be a hollow sac or membrane that is configured to be filled with an inflation medium that is delivered through a lumen (not shown) of the delivery catheter (not shown) and the plurality of support arms (not shown), as described herein. Suitable materials for the membrane include flexible/pliable polymers such as ePTFE, polyurethane, or silicone and suitable inflation medium include but are not limited to gels, biocompatible polymers including curable polymers, gases, saline, blood, and the like. As the inflation medium is delivered, annular sealing element **1130** radially expands into contact with the previously implanted valve prosthesis and further over-expands or pushes the valve prosthesis such that it conforms to the inner surface of the valve annulus including any surface irregularities that may be present, thereby filling any gaps or cavities that may be present between the valve prosthesis and native tissue. Once the annular sealing element **1130** has been sufficiently inflated such that a satisfactory seal has been created between prosthesis **100** and the inner surface of the valve annulus, any inflation ports of annular sealing element **1130** may be sealed off to maintain constant pressure within the annular sealing element as described in more detail herein with respect to FIGS. **10A-10B**.

In another embodiment hereof, the annular sealing element or component deployed within a heart valve prosthesis, post-implantation of the heart valve prosthesis, may be a loop or coil formed from a shape memory material. Annular sealing element **1230** is shown in its deployed configuration in FIG. **12**. Annular sealing element **1230** is formed of a shape memory material that is pre-formed or pre-shaped into a deployed configuration, which has a specific geometry such as a single circumferential loop shown in FIG. **12**, which in situ is formed in a plane transverse to the longitudinal axis of a previously implanted heart valve (not shown). Annular sealing element **1230** may be substantially straightened or stretched for delivery to the treatment site and returns to its original, preset expanded or deployed shape upon release from the delivery system. In order to self-expand, annular sealing element **1230** may be made from a metallic material having a mechanical memory to return to the preset expanded or deployed shape. Mechanical memory may be imparted to annular sealing element **1230** by thermal treatment to achieve

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a spring temper in stainless steel, for example, or to set a shape memory in a susceptible metal alloy, such as Nitinol. In an alternate embodiment, a mechanical memory to return to the preset expanded or deployed shape may be imparted to a polymer that forms annular sealing element **1230**, such as any of the polymers disclosed in U.S. Pat. Appl. Pub. No. 2004/0111111 to Lin, which is herein incorporated by reference in its entirety. In an embodiment, annular sealing element **1230** is a NiTi (nitinol) wire having a diameter between approximately 0.1 mm to 1.5 mm. The wire forming annular sealing element **1230** may be slightly larger, i.e., have a greater diameter, than a wire forming the heart valve prosthesis in order to have sufficient radial force to over-expand the stent of the heart valve prosthesis. The nitinol wire may have a round or circular cross-section. In other embodiments, the nitinol wire may have an elliptical cross-section, a strip or ribbon-like form or any other suitable cross-sectional configuration. Although annular sealing element **1230** is shown with a single complete winding or loop, it will be apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art that annular sealing element **1230** may have multiple adjacent windings in either a stacked or spaced-apart spring-like form. For example, FIG. **13** illustrates an annular sealing element or component **1330** having a spiral or helical deployed configuration that defines a blood flow lumen through the open center of the helix.

To deliver annular sealing elements **1230**, **1330**, the annular sealing element or component is substantially straightened into a delivery configuration and distally advanced out of a port of a catheter or sheath. The substantially straightened annular sealing element may be distally advanced through the port of the catheter via a pusher rod or tube that extends within the catheter for the full length thereof, with the proximal end thereof extending outside of the patient. As the substantially straightened annular sealing element or component passes out of the port, it coils or loops against the interior surface of a previously implanted heart valve prosthesis until the proximal end of the annular sealing element exits the catheter.

In another embodiment hereof, an annular sealing element may be placed around the outer surface or perimeter of a heart valve prosthesis, post-implantation of the heart valve prosthesis, to repair and/or prevent paravalvular leakage utilizing an in situ crimper device to radially contract one end of the implanted heart valve prosthesis and thus provide or allow access to the outer surface of the heart valve prosthesis. Referring to FIGS. **14A-14G**, a method of using an in situ crimper device **1482** to deliver an annular sealing element **1430** is illustrated. Crimper device **1482** includes a plurality of self-expandable grasper arms **1486** that are coupled to a distal end of an inner shaft or rod (not shown) that is slidably disposed within an outer shaft **1483**. The inner shaft or rod extends to a proximal end of the crimper device, and may be pushed and/or pulled to expand and/or collapse the grasper arms, as described in more detail herein. The plurality of grasper arms **1486** are formed from a self-expanding material such as NiTi (Nitinol), and outer sheath **1483** radially constrains grasper arms **1486** during delivery.

In FIG. **14A**, crimper device **1482** is advanced such that a distal end **1484** of outer sheath **1483** is adjacent to a first or proximal flared end **1416** of a previously implanted heart valve prosthesis **1400**. Heart valve prosthesis **1400** has an hourglass configuration in which a stent or support frame **1402** thereof has the proximal flared end **1416**, a middle waisted or narrow portion **1417**, and a second or distal flared end **1418**. As described with respect to previous embodiments hereof, placement of the annular sealing element may occur immediately after implantation of heart valve prosthesis **1400** and thus may utilize the same guidewire previously utilized in

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the delivery of heart valve prosthesis **1400**, or placement of the annular sealing element may occur during a distinct or secondary procedure from implantation of heart valve prosthesis **1400** and thus utilize a new guidewire tracked to the previously implanted heart valve prosthesis.

After in situ crimper device **1482** is positioned as desired, the plurality of self-expandable grasper arms **1486** are deployed or radially expanded as shown in FIG. **14B**. Although shown with three grasper arms **1486**, it will be understood by those of ordinary skill in the art that a greater or less number of deployable grasper arms may be utilized herein. Grasper arms **1486** are deployed via relative motion between the inner shaft or rod and outer sheath **1483**. For example, grasper arms **1486** may be distally advanced from distal end **1484** of outer sheath **1483** by pushing inner shaft or rod, thereby exposing grasper arms **1486** and allowing them to self-expand. In another example, grasper arms **1486** may be deployed via retraction of outer sheath **1483**, thereby exposing grasper arms **1486** and allowing them to self-expand. When deployed, distal tips **1488** of grasper arms **1486** form curves or hooks that engage or attach to stent **1402**, adjacent to proximal flared end **1416**. More particularly, distal tips **1488** travel or pass from the inner surface of previously implanted heart valve prosthesis **1400**, through openings **1428** formed within stent **1402**, and hook around or engage stent **1402**.

Once grasper arms **1486** are deployed or radially expanded and distal tips **1488** thereof are positioned so as to grasp or engage the previously implanted heart valve prosthesis **1400**, grasper arms **1486** are then proximally retracted, illustrated via directional arrow **1490** in FIG. **14C**, by pulling the inner shaft or rod. Distal flared end **1418** of previously implanted heart valve prosthesis **1400** remains securely in apposition with the vessel wall, while grasper arms **1486** essentially radially collapse proximal end **1416** of stent **1402** out of apposition with the vessel wall and into a reduced diameter, so that heart valve prosthesis **1400** is in a temporary partially crimped state. In other words, proximal end **1416** of previously implanted heart valve prosthesis **1400** is radially contracted by crimper device **1482** to provide or allow access to the outer surface of the heart valve prosthesis.

In one embodiment hereof (not shown), with proximal end **1416** of previously implanted heart valve prosthesis **1400** radially contracted, an annular sealing element may be formed in situ at any location along the length of heart valve prosthesis **1400**, including distal end **1418**, via a secondary catheter such as catheter **332** described herein which is configured to deliver an injectable, self-expanding material. The secondary catheter may be delivered alongside in situ crimper device **1482** and tracked or directed around heart valve prosthesis **1400** in order to deliver the sealing material around the outer surface or perimeter of the heart valve prosthesis.

In another embodiment hereof, with proximal end **1416** of previously implanted heart valve prosthesis **1400** radially contracted, an annular sealing element **1430** may be positioned around second or distal end **1418** of the heart valve prosthesis. A delivery catheter **1492** having an expandable distal end portion **1494** is delivered over in situ crimper device **1482** as shown in FIG. **14D**. Once distal end **1492** is positioned adjacent to heart valve prosthesis **1400**, which is still held in a temporary partially crimped state by grasper arms **1486**, distal end **1494** of delivery catheter **1492** is expanded as shown in FIG. **14E**. Distal end **1494** is formed from a self-expanding material and expansion and collapse thereof may be accomplished via retraction of an outer sheath (not shown).

After distal end **1494** is expanded, delivery catheter **1492** is distally advanced over the heart valve prosthesis **1400** as shown in **14F**. In one embodiment, expanded distal end **1494** is delivered over the length of heart valve prosthesis **1400** until it is positioned adjacent to distal end **1418** of the heart valve prosthesis as shown in **FIG. 14F** but it will be understood by one of ordinary skill in the art that the distal end may be positioned anywhere along the length of the heart valve prosthesis, depending upon the desired location of annular sealing element **1430**. Although annular sealing element **1430** is shown around second end **1418** of heart valve prosthesis **1400** in **FIG. 14G**, the annular sealing element may be positioned anywhere along the length of the heart valve prosthesis. Since the annular sealing element is positioned after implantation of heart valve prosthesis **1400**, longitudinal placement and/or the size and shape thereof is flexible and may be adjusted or adapted according to each application and to a patient's unique needs.

Once distal end **1494** of delivery catheter **1492** is in place, annular sealing element **1430** is formed around or delivered to second or distal end **1418** of heart valve prosthesis **1400** as shown in **FIG. 14G**. More particularly, in one embodiment, annular sealing element **1430** may be circumferentially formed around heart valve prosthesis from an injectable, self-expanding gel or foam that is delivered via a plurality of lumens and corresponding ports (not shown) formed within distal end **1494** of delivery catheter **1492**. In another embodiment, annular sealing element **1430** is a preformed continuous circular band mounted over distal end **1494** of delivery catheter **1492** during delivery thereof which is pushed or distally advanced from distal end **1494** of delivery catheter **1492** onto second or distal end **1418** of heart valve prosthesis via a pusher sheath (not shown) which is slidably positioned over delivery catheter **1492**. In this embodiment, annular sealing element **1430** may be formed from a swellable material that collapses easily and fills to a larger volume after implantation or an elastic conformable material such as polyurethane, silicone, or a biological or natural materials such as pericardium or another membranous tissue such as intestinal submucosa.

Once annular sealing element **1430** is positioned as desired, delivery catheter **1492** is proximally retracted such that distal end **1494** is no longer positioned over heart valve prosthesis **1400** and distal end **1494** thereof may be collapsed for removal as shown in **FIG. 14G**. Distal end **1494** may be collapsed via distal advancement of an outer sheath (not shown). Delivery catheter **1492** may then be removed from the patient. Grasper arms **1486** may be distally advanced by pushing the inner shaft or rod to disengage distal tips **1488** from stent **1402**. Outer sheath **1483** is then advanced over grasper arms **1486** for collapse thereof, and crimper device **1482** may be removed from the patient.

While various embodiments according to the present invention have been described above, it should be understood that they have been presented by way of illustration and example only, and not limitation. It will be apparent to persons skilled in the relevant art that various changes in form and detail can be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. Thus, the breadth and scope of the present invention should not be limited by any of the above-described exemplary embodiments, but should be defined only in accordance with the appended claims and their equivalents. It will also be understood that each feature of each embodiment discussed herein, and of each reference cited herein, can be used in combination with the features of any other embodiment. All patents and publications discussed herein are incorporated by reference herein in their entirety.

What is claimed is:

1. A method of preventing and/or repairing paravalvular leakage, the method comprising the steps of:
 - advancing a catheter to a previously implanted valve prosthesis, wherein the catheter is configured to deliver an injectable sealing material;
 - injecting the sealing material around an outer surface of the implanted valve prosthesis via the catheter by extending a plurality of needles of the catheter through graft material of the implanted valve prosthesis and delivering the sealing material through the plurality of needles; and
 - allowing the sealing material to expand and solidify in situ to form an annular sealing element that extends between the outer surface of the implanted valve prosthesis and native valve tissue to close and/or prevent gaps between the implanted valve prosthesis and native valve tissue to repair and/or prevent paravalvular leakage.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of withdrawing the plurality of needles through the graft material, thereby leaving a plurality of small holes in the graft material.
3. The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of injecting additional sealing material into the plurality of holes.
4. A method of preventing and/or repairing paravalvular leakage, the method comprising the steps of:
 - advancing a catheter to a previously implanted valve prosthesis, wherein the catheter is configured to deliver an injectable sealing material;
 - injecting the sealing material around an outer surface of the implanted valve prosthesis via the catheter by positioning an umbrella-like delivery component of the catheter around an end of the implanted valve prosthesis and delivering the sealing material through the umbrella-like delivery component; and
 - allowing the sealing material to expand and solidify in situ to form an annular sealing element that extends between the outer surface of the implanted valve prosthesis and native valve tissue to close and/or prevent gaps between the implanted valve prosthesis and native valve tissue to repair and/or prevent paravalvular leakage.
5. A method of preventing and/or repairing paravalvular leakage, the method comprising the steps of:
 - advancing a catheter to a previously implanted valve prosthesis, wherein the catheter is configured to deliver an injectable sealing material;
 - injecting the sealing material around an outer surface of the implanted valve prosthesis via the catheter;
 - temporarily crimping a first end of the implanted valve prosthesis prior to the step of injecting the sealing material around an outer surface of the implanted valve prosthesis via the catheter; and
 - allowing the sealing material to expand and solidify in situ to form an annular sealing element that extends between the outer surface of the implanted valve prosthesis and native valve tissue to close and/or prevent gaps between the implanted valve prosthesis and native valve tissue to repair and/or prevent paravalvular leakage.
6. A method of preventing and/or repairing paravalvular leakage, the method comprising the steps of:
 - advancing a catheter to a previously implanted valve prosthesis, wherein the catheter includes an annular sealing component mounted thereon; and
 - positioning the annular sealing component onto the implanted valve prosthesis, wherein the annular sealing component is positioned within the implanted valve prosthesis to over-expand and press at least a portion of

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the implanted valve prosthesis against native valve tissue and wherein the annular sealing component closes and/or prevents gaps between the implanted valve prosthesis and native valve tissue to repair and/or prevent paravalvular leakage.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the annular sealing component is a hollow polymeric sac and further comprising the step of delivering an inflation medium to the hollow polymeric sac to expand the sac in situ.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein the annular sealing component is a conformable polymeric ring.

9. The method of claim 6, wherein the annular sealing component is at least one loop of a self-expanding shape memory material.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of needles of the catheter are spaced apart in equal intervals around the outer surface of the implanted valve prosthesis during the step of injecting the sealing material around the outer surface of the implanted valve prosthesis.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of needles each include distal tips configured for piercing through the graft material of the implanted valve prosthesis.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of allowing the sealing material to expand and solidify in situ to form an annular sealing element includes allowing the sealing material to spread away from the plurality of needles and track circumferentially around the implanted valve prosthesis to merge into the annular sealing element.

13. The method of claim 2, wherein the graft material is self-sealing and the plurality of holes self-seal after the plurality of needles are withdrawn.

14. The method of claim 4, wherein the umbrella-like delivery component of the catheter includes a plurality of

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circumferentially spaced apart support arms and a plurality of segments extending between the adjacent pairs of the support arms, each segment including a double layer of flexible material that defines a port for delivery of the sealing material.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein each support arm includes a hinge for radial expansion and radial collapse thereof.

16. The method of claim 5, wherein the step of injecting the sealing material around the outer surface of the implanted valve prosthesis includes tracking the catheter around the outer surface of the implanted valve prosthesis.

17. The method of claim 5, wherein the step of injecting the sealing material around the outer surface of the implanted valve prosthesis includes circumferentially delivering the sealing material through a plurality of lumens and corresponding ports formed within a distal end of the catheter.

18. The method of claim 6, wherein the annular sealing component has an expanded outer diameter that is predetermined to be greater than an expanded diameter of the implanted valve prosthesis.

19. The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of sealing of an inflation port of the hollow polymeric sac after delivery of the inflation medium.

20. The method of claim 9, wherein the annular sealing component has a substantially straightened delivery configuration during the step of advancing the catheter and wherein the annular sealing component self-expands against an interior surface of the implanted valve prosthesis during the step of positioning the annular sealing component onto the implanted valve prosthesis.

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